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Millions to benefit in home loans war

Rates drop to 6.25% in battle for customers

NIC CICUTTI

Millions of house buyers are set to benefit from the cheapest home-loan deals since the 1960s as the escalating price war between lenders led Bradford & Bingley yesterday to cut mortgage rates to a record low of 6.25 per cent.

Its move placed the two niggest lenders, Halifax and Abhey National, under intense pressure to reduce their mortgages rates even further.

Their resolve will be tested by other large and mid-ranking building societies in the next few weeks. Several confirmed yesterday they are preparing to give lovalty" bonuses to members.

One building society chief, who refused to be named, said: "We will force them to the point where they have to say



Geoffrey Lister: 'Lowest standard rate anywhere'

whose side they are on. Are they into making profits for their ex-isting and future shareholders, or will they defend the interest of their members?"

Both lenders, with 3.2 million borrowers between them, said that after spearheading several price cuts in the past few months they had no intention of following suit this time.

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "We have no plans to cut our would want to remain competitive with the market-place."

Bradford & Bingley's move vesterday followed an earlier rate cut to 6.49 per cent by Direct Line, the telephone-based

financial services company.

The society's response lowers the cost of a typical £50,000 interest-only mortgage to £237 a month from March, when the reductions take effect. Direct limitations are reflected for £246 Line's mortgage will cost £246 a month from mid-February.

Geoffrey Lister, the society's chief executive, said: "We believe the new rate for our 'phone-alone' mortgage is the lowest standard rate anywhere

in the country." The bonus packages on offer from societies, including re-ductions in loan costs and hikes in savings rates, are part of societies' defence against de-mutualisation or takeovers. David Charlton, assistant

meral manager at Skipton Building Society, which led the market with a reduction for its 60,000 borrowers in December. said: "We are preparing a package of measures and it is almost certain that we will be cutting mortgages even further. We have said for some time that we believed there must be a narrowing of the margin between

savings and mortgage rates."
Bradford & Bingley led the pack last week by cutting rates for its 600,000 branch network borrowers to 7.24 per cent. Yesterday's cut is on offer to borrowers who book a mortgage through the society's telephone

Nationwide, the second-largest society, said it too would be offering a bonus package to its 8 million members within weeks. Britannia, another top-10 society, will do so in the spring.

A spokesman at Bristol & West said: "Until recently, we had considered that defending mutuality lay in providing competitive pricing both in savings and mortgages. We are now considering the issue of loyalty bonuses and will make an announcement as soon as appropriate."

Birmingham Midshires said it was also considering a similar package for its 750,000 investors and 160,000 borrowers although a spokesman was unable to say when a decision

might be reached.
But Ken Culley, chief executive at Portman Building Society, argued: "Our defence of mutuality means we try to balance the interests of both savers and borrowers. It is a matter of concern to me that the effects of mortgage rate reductions are always felt by savers. We berates. Having said that, we lieve that borrowers have had a good deal and want to defend our savers, who are seven times

as numerous." The initiative by Direct Line and Bradford & Bingley adds a new dimension to the price war. Their undercutting of tra-ditional lenders is the result of telephone-based operations doing away with costly overheads,

including branch networks. Although still relatively small, telephone lenders are grabbing an increasingly large slice of the market. Direct Line, which has been offering mortgages for less than a year, has already lent about £210m.

Winds from Siberia put Britain into deep freeze



turned to Britain, plunging temperatures to nearly 20 degrees below zero, with worse to come. A temperatures dived to minus 17C with the wind-chill electricity blackouts.

26-year-old woman was killed when a car skidded on ice at Pyecombe, near Haywards Heath in West Sussex. The worst affected areas were in south Wales, where

factor, North-east England, Humberside, Merseyside and sonthern Scotland all had snow, which combined with freezing winds on Thursday night to cause

Kevin Maxwell faces second fraud trial

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

Kevin Maxwell's legal battle to clear his name is set to drag on for another 18 months or longer after the Serious Fraud Office yesterday sensationally declared it was prosecuting him on fur-ther charges of fraud, despite his acquittal on similar charges a week ago.

Mr Maxwell accused the

Government of interference in seeking another trial, which prompted a denial from the Attorney General, who has ultimate responsibility for the SFO.

His counsel said this would mean another trial starting in February 1997, and lasting even longer than the eight month trial which ended last weck at a cost of £24m to the taxpayer.

Alun Jones QC bitterly attacked the decision as "nothing less than an outrage". It would mean Mr Maxwell had been under the strain of having to defend himself for five-and-a-

The decision sparked disbelief from observers, who had assumed the SFO would abandon any further action at yesterday's hearing. The SFO was heavily criticised over its handling of the first trial in which Kevin and Ian Maxwell and former Maxwell aide Larry Trachtenberg were all acquitted of conspiracy to defraud Maxwell pension funds.



Kevin Maxwell: 'I am the victim of a political decision

Following yesterday's deci-sion, Kevin, Mr Trachtenberg and former treasurer Albert Fuller face charges of conspir-acy to defraud. The charges relate to shares in Berlitz held by the Maxwell business empire, which it is alleged were pledged to a number of different banks as collateral for loans. As a result the banks lost over

£100m, it is alleged.
Former Mirror Group finance director Michael Stoney is also to face trial, on two charges of false accounting. All charges against Kevin's elder brother, Ian, were dropped. The SFO claimed yesterday in a heated hearing that a second trial could start this October and would be shorter than

Kevin, visibly shaken by the SFO's unexpected decision. told reporters after the Old Bailey hearing of his "immense

"I believe that I am the victim of a political decision taken by politicians in the run up to a general election. I don't believe the interests of justice will be served by a second tri-al. I take a lot of courage from the jury's verdict," he said. "I came out of court protest-

ing my innocence and will fight these new challenges with the same vigour, determination and absolute confidence that I will be proven innocent if these charges ever come to court."

The Attorney General then issued a statement: "The law officers completely refute the suggestion by Kevin Maxwell that the decision of the Serious Fraud Office to proceed with certain outstanding charges on the indictment was the result of political influence. "The decision was taken by

the director of the SFO after taking advice from leading and junior counsel in the case.

"As the SFO made clear in its announcement this morning, the law officers were also consulted. This is normal in cases of great public importance in

view of their statutory respon-sibility for the work of the SFO. They supported the director's

Kevin's defence counsel successfully applied for a further hearing to decide whether a second trial would be an "abuse of process" or should be allowed to go ahead.

Yesterday's controversial decision by the SFO was taken just half an hour before the hearing, according to the SFO's counsel Richard Lissack.

Mr Jones told the court that the continued prosecution was oppressive and the defence would be seeking to have it dropped on the grounds of abuse of process.

The SFO also decided not to go ahead against former Maxwell accountant Robert Bunn - who was dropped from the original trial after developing heart problems - because of his continuing ill health, Mr Lissack said.

The DTI inspectors' report on the flotation of the Mirror Group in April 1991 may also be delayed by another trial. Lord Justice Phillips said he had written to the DTL who replied that they were ready to start sending out parts of the Mirror Group report for comment to people named in it. This would have to wait until after the abuse hearing, he said. Drama in court, page 4

Affairs Select Committee, crit-

But Stephen Shaw, director

of the Prison Reform Trust, said

the prison authorities had a duty of care. "Where that is not

forthcoming, inmates have the

same right to seek redress or

compensation as any other

icised the move as "absurd".







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IN BRIEF Cost-cutting quashed

The Government's attempt to redraw the boundaries of two estuaries and save £100m in sewage clean-up costs was Page 6

Adams accuses Major The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, has accused the Prime Minister of putting his hold on political power before Page 2

'Outcast' husband

A woman whose husband is the first man in Britain to be ostracised by the Jewish community, said she was helping other

Prisoners are paid £5,000 for riot JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent Seven former inmates of

Strangeways prison, in Man-chester, have been paid about £5,000 each by the Home Office for the trauma they said they suffered during the riots in in the jail in 1990.

The decision to compensate the offenders in out-of-court settiements drew an angry reaction from MPs who warned the move could open the flood gates to scores of similar claims. A victims' organisation said it was "justice back to front".

An eighth former Strange-ways prisoner is having his claim considered, while a prison

The former immates said the officer has been paid an undisclosed sum following the mass disturbances at the jail.

In what are believed to be the first cases of this kind, the inmates - all since released - said they underwent personality changes because of the riots. The Home Office said set-

tlements were made because of the huge cost to the taxpayers if the cases had come to trial. A Prison Service spokesman said it was a decision of the Prison Board, but that Michael

Howard, the Home Secretary, The former inmates said they suffered post-traumatic stress

disorder from the violent scenes in the jail. Terence Jeggo, 27, of Manchester, who was given £4,500, said the Prison Service breached their duty of care. Mr Jeggo was involved in an

unsuccessful attempt to rescue two prisoners from a burning cell during the riot. He said he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder from a belief he had left them to die. Mr Jeggo, who served two years for wounding, said yesterday: "My personality changed totally. My mother said before I went into Strangeways I was a human being and when I came out I wasn't." Dawn Bromiley, of Justice

For Victims, responded: "What about the stress and pain caused to the victims and families of victims by their actions? Justice has got everything back-to-front." Richard Tilt, the Prison Ser-

vice acting director-general, said: "In seven cases we have concluded that it would be reasonable to make ex gratia payment."

Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the Commons Home

section ONE

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Ulster crisis deepens as Sinn Fein rejects poll

ALAN MURDOCH, PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES and DAVID McKITTRICK

The crisis over the Northern Ireland peace process deepened yesterday as Sinn Fein's president Gerry Adams delivered a point-blank rejection of an elected body and accused John Major of putting his hold on political power before peace.

The disagreement between London and Dublin meanwhile reached boiling point as the Taoiseach, John Bruton, insisted London could not evade its commitment to starting all-party talks on Northern Ireland by the end of next month.

Speaking after a prearranged meeting with Mariorie Mowlam. Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman, Mr Adams claimed Mr Major had "binned" the Mitchell report and that by opting for a Unionist agenda of elections he was replacing the pre-condition of decommissioning before allparty talks with yet another pre-condition.

"We are totally opposed to the notion of any election; that is our position, Mr Adams said. "Our opposition is implacable and absolute."

In what has become the most acrimonious rift between the two governments since he came to office at the end of 1994, Mr Bruton made clear Dublin was not prepared to accept any dibution by London of its undertakings given two months ago to perate the twin-track proto enable an early start to allparty dialogue.

Clearly angry and exasperated at what he considers a personai betrayai by Mr Major, Mr Bruton said: "The fact of the matter is we are committed to all-party talks by the end of Feb-

Mr Bruton also issued a new call to the Ulster Unionist Party to end the impasse by open-ing a face-to-face dialogue with Sinn Fein. He accepted some might want more claboration

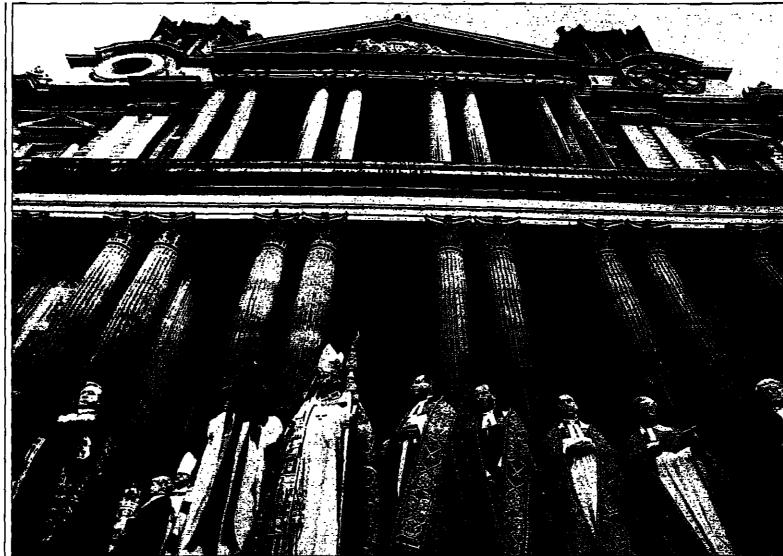
principles outlined in the Mitchell report. "What I would suggest is that if a party has doubts let them talk to them. I can see no reason what after 16 months of peace why Unionists cannot send a delegation to see to Sinn Fein and ask them to demonstrate, point by point, how they intend to show to Unionists that they accept each one of these six principles," he

The opposition to the elec-tion from Sinn Fein, the Irish overnment and John Hume's SDLP forms, in theory at least, a united nationalist front. But although the opposition to an election is strong across the spectrum of nationalism, no element has limited its options by committing itself to any action such as a boycott. Instead, a series of meetings is planned at which Mr Hume and Irish ministers will attempt to change the British government's mind.

One republican leader said yesterday that Sinn Fein had yet to decide its tactical approach. The party has however given strong indications that it would be prepared to subscribe to the six principles of non-violence set out in this week's report by the former US Senator George Mitchell.

These included an absolute commitment to peaceful means and a commitment to eventual verifiable total disarmament Senator Mitchell had suggested that talks could start on the the event his recommendation was quickly superseded by Mr Major's announcement of his election proposal.

Mr Adams said an election was a distraction and an unnecessary pre-condition for talks. He added: "Mr Major has taken the whole process off at a tangent. He has opted for a Unionist agenda and has realmade it very difficult for all of those who are genuinely interested in peace to actually move forward. He is putting his from Sinn Fein in demonstrat- hold on political power before ing their commitment to the six peace in this country."



Bishop's move: The new Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, at his enthronement at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday. Dr Chartres, a traditionalist called for the millennium to usher in a greater spirituality and for the Church to emphasise its relationship to Christ's birth Photograph: Dillon Bryden

MPs keen to ban sale of knives to under-16s

Patricia wynn davies

The selling of knives to young people is set to be banned in the bing of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster.

Timothy Kirkhope, a Home Office minister, said outlawing sales to the under-16s was under "serious consideration" If a ban was found to be workable it could be included in the Offensive Weapons Bill during its committee stage.

The Bill, sponsored by Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland, has all-party support and was yesterday given an unopposed Second Reading.

Mr Kirkhope said a ban would be a major change that

tion, but said: "Young children an amnesty. "Serious crimes desimply do not need razor sharp kitchen knives or commando style daggers and it is hard to to buy them.

Although a private member's measure, the Bill's provisions are effectively the result of talks between ministers and police chiefs in the wake of the fatal stabbing of Mr Lawrence.

It provides for a new maximum penalty of a two year jail sentence or an unlimited fine for carrying a knife without good reason, while the maximum sentence for carrying an offensive weapon such as a cosh or knuckie duster would go up from two to four years.

More than 37,000 knives

would need careful considera- were surfendered this month in serve serious punishment and it is time we wiped the smirks off the faces of the hooligans who misery." Lady Olga, MP for Sut-ton and Cheam, said. The suggested outright ban on the sale of knives to youngsters would

send a "powerful message of disapproval", she said. The MP said people with good reason to carry a knife. such as carpenters or Sikhs with ceremonial daggers, would be exempt.

Alun Michael, a Labour home affairs spokesman, called for controls on advertising weapons. He said names like Rambo Short Sword encouraged undesirable behaviour.

FORECAST FOR TODAY:
Easterly winds will cover the
whole country, keeping it cold.
Many plecos are also gings to
be cloody with some snow.
However, the worst of the
snow is going to be over
vortheast England and eastern
Scotland. Tonight, the cold
easterly winds are going to
persist with samy places staying cloudy. Further snow can
also be expected, but more
especially across the northern
half of the country.
OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT FEW
DAYS: Sunday will see a more
cold weather with the easterly
wind picking up. There are
going to be a few anow showers with sheader sheet or snowto the south. Little change is
then expected guing islanday.
The cold weather is then
expected to continue through
then note of the weat with fire

Tories play down 'rift' with Clarke

DONALD MACINTYRE

Downing Street yesterday joined intensive Whitehall efof speculation that Kenneth Clarke was at odds with John Major and his colleagues over Europe, the economy and how to combat the electoral threat

from Labour. MPs on the left of the party increasingly see the speculation as an attempt by right-wingers - angered by Mr Clarke's role in helping to persuade Mr Major not to bow to demands to rule out British membership of single currency in the next Parliament – to destabilise the Chancellor.

openness to the possibilities of monetary union differentiates him from many, if not most, of his colleagues; the Treasury and Downing Street united yes-terday in adamant denial that there was any rift. It was also pointed out that Michael Hes-

eltine, the Deputy Prime Min-

ister, had also been strongly against ruling out EMU membership. There were suggestions last night that the reports could be the result of "wishful thinking" among Euro-sceptics who had unsuccessfully been trying to persuade Mr Major to rule out Britain being among the first countries to join EMU. Mr. Clarke has been forthright in

hancellor. suggesting 1998 is the time for While Mr Clarke's continued Britain to decide. Big chill plays havoc with sport and travel

Arctic conditions caused major problems for commutely yes-terday, with the gromise of worse weather to came and the weekend's sporting calen-dar ravaged, writes Peter

"The trans-Pennine route between County Durham and Cumbria was closed and snow ploughs were out on many northern trunk roads, where up to three inches of snow were re-

AA Roadwatch said that the worst-hit roads were in Lothian, around Edinburgh, and in the Borders. They include the A8 heading east to Edinburgh and the M73 in Strathclyde

which was hit by a blizzard yesterday. Snow, ice and winds affecting power lines were blamed for InterCity delays between Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Weekend football, rugby and horse racing have been badly hit. Race meetings today at Ayr, Cheltenham and Doncaster have been called off, the only survivor being the all-weather meeting at Lingfield. Three FA Cup fourth round ties at Coventry, Ipswich and Swindon - have also fallen victim.

A London Weather Centre spokesman said even worse conditions are in store towards the end of the weekend.

IN BRIEF

Forte talks to City about buy-back

Advisers to Sir Rocco Forte. who spectacularly lost control of his family hotel and restaurant empire to Granada in a hostile £3.8bn takeover hid last. week, were yesterday in further talks with City institutions in an effort to raise the finance for the

buy-back of part of the group. Granada is seeking to self some of the top hotels, including the Meridien and Exclusive chains, the Waldorf and Grosvenor House, and to dispose of Forte's 68 per cent shareholding in the Savoy Group. Three US companies, ITT Sheraton, Hilton Hotels and the Marriott Group, are said

to be interested in the Savoy. An adviser to Sir Rocco said: We've had an excellent response ... Rocco Forte is a major force in the hotels business and his robust defence has won him new friends in the City. Saturday story, pages 14 & 15

Newbury evictions

Campaigners fighting the A34 Newbury bypass in Berkshire face eviction from four sites blocking the route after a High Court judge granted possession orders against them. Department of Transport lawyers would not say when the evictions from sites near the River Kennet, Elmore Woods, Reddings Copse and the Chase would start.

Widow seeks seat

The widow of Conservative MP Sir David Lightbown has put her name forward to fight his seat in the forthcoming by-election. Ann Lightbown, who worked as her husband's assistant in the Commons, said she wanted to carry on his work as MP for Staffordshire South East. Sir David, 63, died last month.

Pub attack

A man who attacked a builder in a pub car-park row, causing massive injuries, was found guilty at Liverpool Crown Court of causing grievous bodily harm. Richard Mellor, 32, attacked Barry Hayes, 50, for telling off Melior's seven-year-old son after his car was scratched in Au-gust 1994. The case was adjourned until 2 February.

Cricket ousts 'Today

Proposals to replace BBC Radio 4's *Today* morning news pro-gramme with live cricket coverage on its Long Wave frequency have angered listeners. The BBC has revealed that on 14 and 22 February much of the twoand-a-half-hour magazine will be turned over to the World Cup matches in India and Pakistan.

Football fan's trial

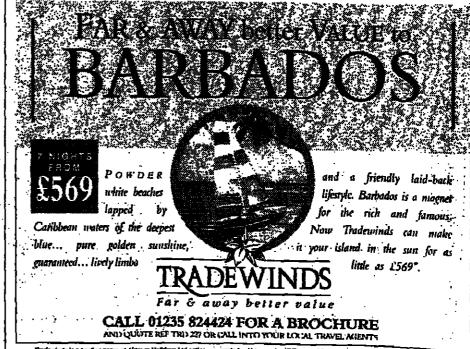
An attempt by the football fan attacked by Manchester United's Eric Cantona to block his own trial was thrown out by the High Court. Matthew Simmons, 21. charged with using threatening words and behaviour, claimed that press coverage after the in-cident at Selhurst Park, south London, last January meant he would not get a fair trial.

Alan Clark

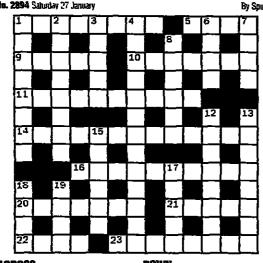
Alan Clark has asked us to point out that at no time has he received any legal assistance in re-lation to the Scott inquiry, either at taxpayers' expense, or on his own account.

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concise crossword No. 2894 Saturday 27 January



ACROSS

Following the game? (8) Exploit (4) Approximately (5) Pancy (7) 14 Local authority (6.7)

16 Legitimate (5.5) 20 Weightlifting equipment 21 Covering of billiard table

(5) Heroic tale (4) Sheets, pillow-cases, etc. School sports event (4.4) Balloonist (8) African village (5)
Extent to which a thing

causes difficulties (8,5) 6 Arrange for publication Abound (4) Rich cake (6) Time (8) Stout club (8) Form of medication (6) Confusion of tongues (5)

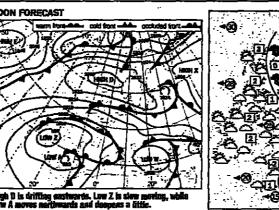
18 Bird sacred to Egyptians 19 Smus, self-righteons per-

Sciution to yesterday's Concise Cros

Across: 1 Ewe, 3 Funny (Euphony), 7 Thatcher, S Glad, 9 Clarinettist, 10 Pledge, 12 Bleary, 14 Short-sighted, 18 Saga, 19 Charcoal, 20 Ditto, 21 Yet. Down: I Ethical, 2 Extra, 3 Forge, 4 Nightie, 5 Years, 6 Choice, 11 Dormant, 12 Beggar, 13 Radiant, 15 Hoard, 16 Secco, 17 Tacky.

Notes

Weather forecast NOON FORECAST



WORLD WEATHER VESTEROW MODER (CAST) CA Approduce National Systems (Special Systems Application Applicatio LIGHTING-UP TIMES

4.40 pm to 7.46 am Yesterday
4.50 pm to 7.95 am.
4.43 pm to 8.02 am London
4.43 pm to 8.02 am S England
4.32 pm to 8.05 am Wales
4.38 pm to 8.20 am to 8.21 am to England HIGH TIDES 6.07 am 6.8 6.45 pm 3.48 am 8.5 4.13 pm 66 | Wales 34 | C England 11.45am 11.7 12.03 am5un 11.1 Hull (Albert Dock) 11.00 am 66 11.20 pm Greenook 5.05 am 3.4 5.23 pm 4.35 am 3.7 4.53 am 3.7 Out and about with AA Roadwatch

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Jew 'banned' by community for blocking divorce

REBECCA FOWLER

A woman whose estranged husband yesterday became the first man in Britain to be formally ostracised by the Jewish community, said last night that she felt she was helping other Jewish women by pressing the action against him.

Moses David, 43, from Mill Hill, north London was alone yesterday, after being officially ostracised by the entire Jewish community on account of his acrimonious divorce from his

wife, Rachel, aged 30.

The official order to the community to avoid all contact with Mr David, an unemployed computer analyst, was issued last week after he repeatedly failed to attend a Jewish court hearing over his refusal to grant Mrs David a religious divorce.

known as a get.
Under the order, which has been posted in synagogues near his home, his fellow Jews are forbidden from sitting within six feet of Mr David, entering his

home, or eating with him.

As Mr David's three children were dropped off at his sister's home, to visit him for the Sab-

Although Mrs. David gained civil divorce from her husband four years ago, she cannot con-sider herself free to enter into another relationship until he grants her a get. Under Jewish law the marriage contract is literally torn into two pieces, to

signify that it is over. Mrs David, who works as a purchasing buyer for a medical equipment company, met her busband when she was only 16. They were married 13 years ago.

To many Jewish women, Mrs David's plight is a painful and fitting tale of the trials of Judaism in modern Britain.

Jewish leaders, including Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, have been attempting to change the 2,000-year-old law in order to allow women an easier route to divorce.

In her attempt to secure a divorce, Mrs David appealed to the Federation of Synagogues, a separate body to the Sephardi synagogue that Mr David attends. But he failed to respond to three summons from Beth Din, the Jewish court.

would be among the few guests that he will by receiving.

States. But in England we're much more conservative, and Jewish women have to suffer as a result," Mrs David said.

The Federation of Synagogues said yesterday that it was anxious to resolve the differences between the Davids as fairly as possible.

However, the leaders cannot make a judgement unless Mr David attends. "This law goes back hundreds of years and it inspires tremendous social pressure, even in our society, which is much freer now," said Dayan Berel Berkovits, of the Feder-

ation of Synagogues.
"We're not trying to damn this man, we're trying to use a sanction that is part of Jewish law to induce him to attend the

Mr David was not available for comment yesterday. The synagogue that he attends has not decided whether it will join in the nidui (order), and display it for members.

The head of the Sephardic Beth Din, Dayan Pinchas Toledono, told the Jewish Chronicle: "I've never issued a Nidui, and I hope I never will. "These declarations are is- I don't think this will solve the



ANDREW BROWN Religious Affairs Correspondent

The head of the Dixons store group, one of the most promi-nent Jewish businessmen in Britain, has demanded that the Chief Rabbi resign.
In a letter to the Jewish

Chronicle, Sir Stanley Kalms, who was one of the most influential backers of Dr Jonathan Sacks for the post of Chief Rabbi when he was appointed five years ago, now says that Dr Sacks has failed to keep his electoral pledges about improving the position of women in orthodox Judaism and improving relations with the liberal and reform factions, and accuses him of dithering.

"Leadership is about firm convictions, clean strategy, and a clear, communicable action plan. Popularism and survival are not on the agenda of a true leader. In fairness to himself, the Chief Rabbi should consider retiring from office. He is an academic by nature, and his talents could be immeasurably

Letter highlights the crisis facing a Jewish community split into factions

Sir Stanley's call roused no noticeable enthusiasm in the Jewish community. One observer from the conservative but not quite orthodox Masorti movement, which has been bitterly attacked by the Chief Rabbi, said he believed Sir Stanley had got into "a kind of personal tiff" with Dr Sacks.

However, the controversy highlighted the considerable pressures within the Jewish community, and especially on the United Synagogue, the traditionally gentle, almost Anglican branch of orthodoxy which the Chief rabbi heads.

The United Synagogue still contains about two-thirds of Britain's 300,000 intermittently observant Jews, but intermarriage seems to many observers to threaten the survival of the Jewish community. Dr Sacks has written a book whole of British Jewry.

pointing out that the Jewish population of Britain has declined from 450,000 in the late 1950s as a result of intermar nage. Orthodox Jews count only as Jewish children whose mothers are Jews.

Two broad strategies have arisen to deal with this crisis. The first has been restrictive; within orthodoxy there has been a great rise in the number and influence of ultra-orthodox groupings such as the Lubavitch, who hope that by increasing strictness and enthusiastic breeding to preserve Judaism as something sharply distinct from the surrounding world

The second has been the more open approach of the Reform and Liberal traditions. which have been happy to work with couples of mixed religions. This has led to considerable bitterness on both sides. Last

year, Rabbi David Goldberg, of the Liberal synagogue in St John's Wood, predicted that Dr Sacks would be the last Chief Rabbi to be accepted as even the nominal spokesman for the

Mini radar antennae tracks low flying bees

the world's smallest radar transponder capable of tracking the low-level flight of insects. The researchers have proved their device - which weighs

just 3mg and measures 16mm works by supergluing it to bees as they leave the hive. And they now hope to refine the technology to help scientists fight disease spread by the tsetse fly in Africa.

The fly is a plague pest that attacks humans and cattle with often fatal results. Control in the past has been managed by spraying insecticide over vast areas of land, but the need for inenvironmental pattern and behaviour of the

British scientists have invented sensitivity means that a better method has to be found. Dr Joe Riley leading the re-

search team at the Natural Resources Institute radar unit at North Site. Malvern, said: "Hopefully, the research we are doing with the bees will help us develop a similar device to track the tsetse fly. Scientists in Zimbabwe, who have been looking at the insects' habits for the past 20 years, need to know how they fly when they are close to the ground. Ordinary radar is no use because of reflections from trees and shrubs. We've

used bees as a flying test-bed." By investigating the flight

tsetse fly, scientists say they will then be able to place impregnated fly traps to the best effect. First. however, the re-

searchers will have to shrink the device by two-thirds so that it can be fitted to the tsetse.

Dr Riley explained how the technology works. "The harmonic generating tag reflects the radar signal at a different frequency which means it can be picked up in spite of the echoes from the ground. The insects are then tracked by a special radar scanner with two dishes - one to send the signal out and one to receive it ... It's rather like the security tags you find on clothes in shops.

Sarah is our bride now, say Turks

HUGH POPE

British officials yesterday failed to persuade 13-year-old Essex schoolgirl Sarah Cook to com-ply with a High Court order to leave the Turkish family into which she has illegally "mar-ried" and to return forthwith to

Sarah left a meeting with two British consular officers after one hour, defiantly parrying reporters' questions about her plans with a shout of "Mind your own business!" as she walked off between the arms of her new "father-in-law" and his brother.

"The child will stay. These two people love each other," said Turkish provincial governor Aslan Yildirim, smiling with triumph after the meeting between the two families and the British officials in his imposing town centre office. "Sarah is our

Sarah's mother Jackie Cook. lagged one minute behind her daughter, on her own, her face set. She then squashed into the waiting limousine of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party mayor of Kahramanmaras, who has also adopted Sarah's cause. When Mrs Cook was asked if she would leave her daughter in Turkey she said: "If I go, she

The British Consul, John Fox, and Vice-Consul, Trudie Pak, who had arrived from Ankara, were forced to retire to consider their options. These are limited, especially since the volatile feeling in Kahramanmaras is overwhelmingly in favour of a union that Turkish public opinion is treating as a story of star-crossed lovers.

A senior official in Turkey's Ministry of Justice said the British High Court order had, as yet, no validity in Turkey. To prove that Sarah was a ward of a British court that wanted her taken back to Britain, he said the British Government would have to open a case in Kahramanmaras. That procedure could take weeks, if not months.

The other option would be for Mrs Cook to put Sarah in a taxi and drive to the airport, since, in Turkish law, she is still full guardian of her daughter. could then apply to the Kahramanmaras court to have her will implemented, the official said.

The girl wants to stay, and the mother wants to go back with Sarah to sort out her legal situation. There are huge pressures on both sides," said lawyer Selim Sumen, who is acting for Sarah's "in-laws".

Meanwhile Sarah's 18-year-old "husband", Musa, is still in a grim concrete jail outside town, accused of under-age sex. a charge that most Turks feel is unjust. They note that the wilful Sarah is taller even than her father-in-law and the older generation of Turks sees young teenage brides as normal and desirable.

The sense of injustice being done extends far up into Turkish officialdom. Governor Yildirim suggested to Turkish reporters that they start a "Free

The Kahramanmaras MP. Ali Dogan, arrived to visit Musa in prison to support the couple and to share his belief, based on Sarah's past statements to the Sun newspaper, that "Sarah was not very happy in England

Channel5 fends off Virgin bid

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

Britain's fifth television channel remains on track to start next January after the High Court dismissed claims that the operating licence should not have been awarded to Channel 5 Broadcasting.

Virgin Television argued in a judicial review that the Indesion was guilty of procedural impropriety in its consideration of C5B's bid. Claims centred on whether the ITC had unfairly allowed C5B to increase its programme funding by £100m to £306m four months after the May deadline for bids.

Virgin also argued that the ITC irrationally failed Virgin's application on programme quality grounds - including its level of news staff, high level of repeats and lack of innovation. Many of its arguments were supported by UKTV, which bid £36.26m but also failed on quality, and New Century TV, the consortium led by Rupert Murdoch, which only bid £2m. Virgin and C5B both bid £22.002m.

Lord Justice Henry and Mr isfied that there was neither commission recognising CSB's shareholders' commitment.'

Virgin, NCTV and UKTV were denied leave to appeal.



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Animal cruelty Bill wins field sports lobby's backing to solve the next election. Bill to outlaw all cruelty to soil. Bill wins field sports lobby's backing to make the next election.

Political Correspondent

Cruelty to wild animals - except by hunting with dogs - is almost certain to become a criminal offence punishable by jail after a Labour backbencher's Bill was rushed unopposed through all its stages in the Commons

Bill to outlaw all cruelty to animals, including a ban on hunting.

Alan Meale, MP for Mansfield,

Alan Meale, MP for Mansfield,

Dumbarton) last year, it "does to chase the form of the company of the secured the backing of field sports supporters by dropping anti-hunt clauses from his Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill.

The Bill would make it an offence to "mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or as-After the failure last year of a physiate" any wild mammal.

Dumbarton) last year, it "does rets down rabbit holes to chase not seek to outlaw the hunting and killing of wild animals with dogs or the strangulation of animals with wire snares", Mr Meale told MPs. Mr McFall's Bill was scuppered by hunt sup-

Practices such as hunting foxes with hounds, beagling, snar-

them out of other holes snared with wire traps. Lamping is hunt-

ing foxes at night with torches. Mr Meale said he had reluctantly made considerable concessions after "intense" talks with pro- and anti-field sports groups. "Many of my friends and the vast majority of the pub-

was that a broader Bill would have "little chance at this time to become law - it had to be in the interests of the animal king-

dom that I proceeded". Junior Health minister Tom Sackville gave the measure "very strong support". He said: "It is a sad reflection on our society that such a Bill should be necSir John Cope (Conservative

MP for Northavon), a member of the British Field Sports Society, welcomed the Bill. saying that Mr Meale had been "very sensible" to limit its

Mr McFall also welcomed the Bill, saying: "Only by securing

ourselves a civilised society." Kate Parminter, spokeswoman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to An-

imals, said: We're delighted, and really optimistic about the Bill's chances this time. Labour is committed to a free vote on the issue, which would probably go against hunting if the party won a reasonable

welfare in an interview in Counin Life magazine in September, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said: "We are not about to

change people's way of life.

Mr Meale's Bill now gres to the Lords where it is also expected to have a speedy passage and will almost certainly reach the Statute Book.

The Maxwell affair: Lawyers exchange opening volleys as SFO presses ahead with fresh charges over collapse

Confident smiles turn to looks of disbelief

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

The SFO's decision to press ahead with another five counts on the original indictment against the Maxwell defendants, despite their acquittal last week on two of the counts, hit the Old Bailey court room like a bombshell.

Most learned legal opinion had expected the remaining counts against Kevin and Ian Maxwell and three former Maxwell employees to be dropped. Yesterday morning's hearing at Chichseter Rents, the Old Bailey's annexe in Chancery Lane, London, was

seen as a formality. The body language of the five defendants and their attendant counsel and solicitors contrasted completely with that during the trial. Where Kevin had previously been pale and drawn, pacing the room, yesterday morning found him smiling and

There was even something of a swagger about the defendants' retinue as they regarded the five-strong SFO prosecution team sitting a few feet from them. At 10.30am, the trial Judge, Lord Justice Phillips, started the proceedings and the SFO's counsel, Richard Lissack, rose to speak.

It started innocuously. Mr Lissack explained why the SFO was dropping charges against Robert Bunn, due to ill health. Mr Bunn was originally a de-fendant in the first trial who had to drop out following a heart

Mr Lissack added that Ian Maxwell, Kevin's elder brother, was also clear of all charges as he had "never been involved to the same degree" as alleged of the others.

Then it came: "On counts one, two and nine, we intend to prosecute Kevin Maxwell, Lar-Trachtenberg and Albert Fuller ... The end of the sentence was lost as the journalists stampeded out of the court to alert their offices.

Gone were the smiles. There followed a series of heated exchanges between Mr Lissack and Kevin's counsel, Alun Jones QC. Mr Jones said that the SFO said last week it would inform the defence of its decision in advance, yet he had heard nothing until receiving "anecdotal" information, minutes before the hearing, which turned out to be wrong.

Mr Lissack countered: "I tried to speak to him and he wouldn't speak to me."

Mr Jones then complained of being "caught on the hop". He said a second trial would be



Body language: Kevin Maxwell (left) and his brother, lan, leaving the Old Bailey after the hearing yesterday

even longer than the first and would be "oppressive", "an abuse of process" and "nothing

less than an outrage".

Michael Hill QC, Mr Trachtenberg's counsel, said that although he had been able to find out the SFO's intentions before the hearing, the solicitors for Mr

Fuller had not been told of the sions were only reached that decision. "That discourtesy is a measure of how prosecution is being conducted," said Mr Hill. Mr Lissack responded: "May I make it plain. I do not propose to rise to language like outrage, oppressive, deplorable ...

He insisted that final deci-

morning because so many people's views had to be taken into consideration and all aspects of the case considered "in the minutest detail".

All those concerned had spent the past seven days considering the many factors and

how they affected each charge and each defendant, and how the public interest could best be served, he said. Keith Oliver, Kevin's solicitor, shook his head in disbelief.

Mr Lissack concluded that a new judge would not take long to read up for the second trial, Photograph: Edward Webb

which could start in October. The existing judge, Lord Justice Phillips, one of the few in court to maintain his sang froid throughout the 70-minute hearing, agreed to Kevin having several weeks' holiday before a hearing to decide on the abuse

Drug tests for road victims

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

People killed in road accidents are to be tested for drug abuse in a three-year Department of Transport survey designed to gauge the extent of Britain's growing "drug-driving" prob-lem. Transport officials confirmed yesterday that tests will

begin later this year. The move comes after Scotland's largest police force uncovered evidence of an increase in drug-driving. In a study, Strathclyde police found that more than one in five people who died in road accidents last year had taken illegal drugs. Senior officers are now calling on the Government to introduce legislation to enable police to conduct roadside drug tests.

Toxicologists in Glasgow examined the bodies of 52 crash victims and found that 11 had consumed dangerous levels of illegal drugs. Superintendent Al-istair McLuckie, who co-ordinated the Strathelyde study, which is the first of its kind by a British police force, yesterday called on ministers to change the law to enable officers to take roadside saliva or urine samples for analysis. Although it is illegal to drive under the influence of any powerful drugs, police cannot use existing legislation to force motorists to take instant tests which could lead to arrest. There are no governmentapproved "drugs breathalysers".

A Department of Transport spokesman said the three-year survey of crash victims, which has been planned for several months, would begin in April.

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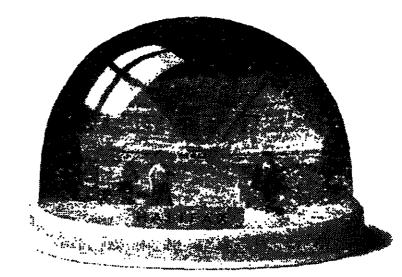
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In it I discovered you can buy a Polo for a were £7,700 on the road. (What does on the road nean?)

I thought I meant a lot more to him than that. How could be be so cheap?

Anyway, the wedding and honymoon have now been concelled. I thought you should know.

Jours disappointealy

Michelle Brown

P.S. I'M Keeping the Polo.



clean-up costs was quashed by

a High Court judge yesterday. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, had decided to move the line where the Humber and Severn estuaries become sea dozens of miles inland for the purposes of a European Union sewage

His move would have enabled Britain to escape its legal obligation to install an expensive level of treatment for the sewage of some one million people which is piped into these

But local councils obtained a judicial review of Mr Gummer's decision, and vesterday Mr Justice Harrison pronounced that he was quite wrong to set new boundaries purely on the basis of cost

As a result of the judgment two water companies, Wessex and troubled Yorkshire, will have to spend about £100m by 2000 installing secondary treatment on their estuary sewage works, in which bacteria digest

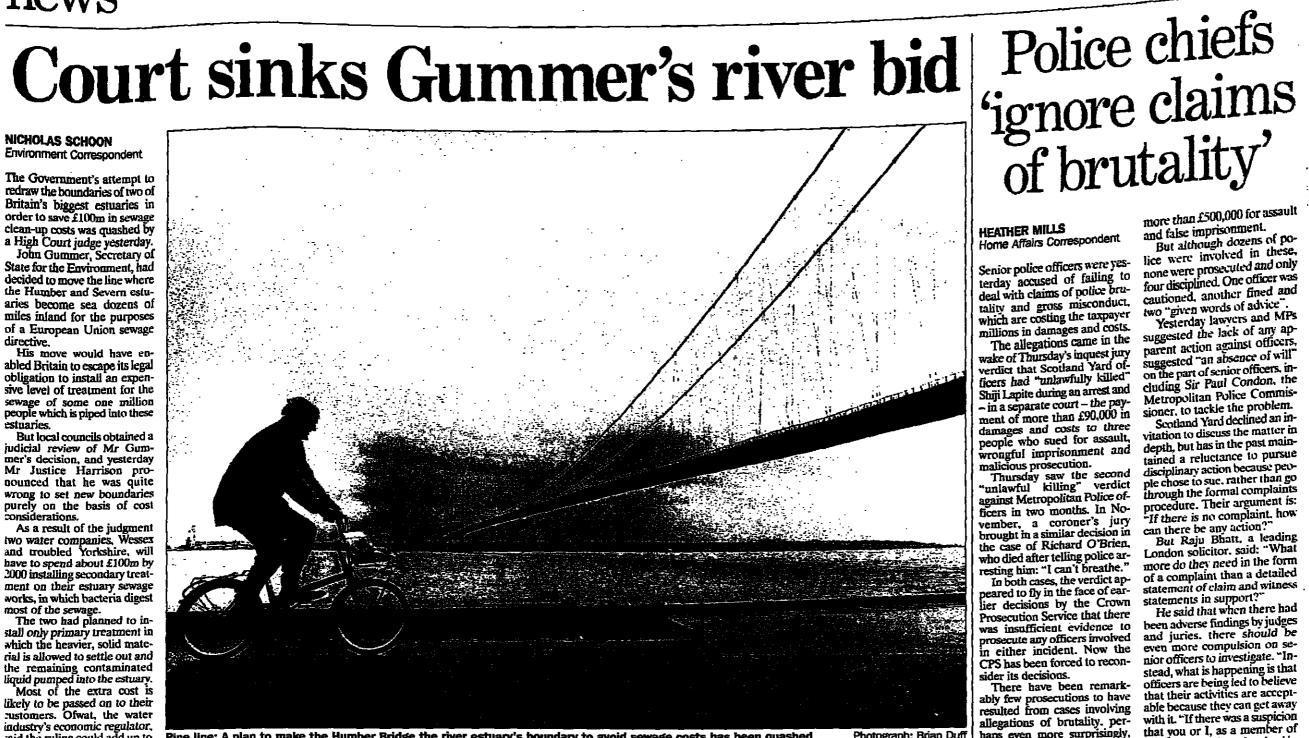
most of the sewage.

The two had planned to install only primary treatment in which the heavier, solid material is allowed to settle out and the remaining contaminated liquid pumped into the estuary.

Most of the extra cost is likely to be passed on to their rustomers. Ofwat, the water industry's economic regulator, said the ruling could add up to £5 a year to about three million household bills. But the city councils of Bristol and Hull vere delighted by the judgnent, believing it will improve the environment and the pub-

ic image of their estuaries. The EU's Urban Waste Waer Treatment Directive manlates every member state to carry out secondary treatment of all sewage discharges into esuaries. But for "coastal waters", only primary treatment is needed if a government can show hese are high natural dispersion treas where currents and tides apidly dilute the effluent.

The court was told that the National Rivers Authority, the Jovernment's water pollution vaichdog, had originally sug-jested that the estuary boundtries should have been based on clean-up programmes.



Pipe line: A plan to make the Humber Bridge the river estuary's boundary to avoid sewage costs has been quashed

Nigel Plening QC, for the De-partment of the Environment,

told the court investment in sec-

ondary treatment would be "a

But the judge said: "It would

be quite wrong to redraw the

boundaries . . . in order to escape the clear requirement of

the directive. The cost of pro-

viding secondary rather than pri-

mary treatment is simply not relevant." He refused the de-

partment leave to appeal but Mr

Gummer may decide to ask the

Jackie Hawken, a solicitor for

Court of Appeal for the right of appeal against the judgment.

Bristol City Council, said: "We're absolutely delighted.

People are very concerned

about the environment in the

complete waste of £100m".

natural landmarks, salinity and

about the directive's implica-

tions for water bills, asked the

authority to think again. The

NRA then agreed to bringing the seaward boundaries inland

to the Severn and Humber sus-

pension bridges. As a result sev-

eral big estuarine sewage works

were left in coastal waters. The

final cost saving step was to define these waters as high nat-

The NRA has advised the

Government, on request, that it

does not believe secondary

treatment would bring signifi-

cant gains in water cleanliness, and the extra money might be

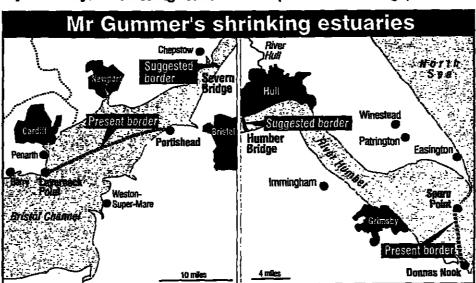
better spent on other sewage

ural dispersion areas.

But the Government, worried

a defunct 1960 Act.

Photograph: Brian Duff



HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Senior police officers were yesterday accused of failing to deal with claims of police brutality and gross misconduct, which are costing the taxpayer millions in damages and costs.

The allegations came in the wake of Thursday's inquest jury verdict that Scotland Yard of-ficers had "unlawfully killed" Shiji Lapite during an arrest and in a separate court - the payment of more than £90,000 in damages and costs to three people who sued for assault, wrongful imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Thursday saw the second "unlawful killing" verdict against Metropolitan Police officers in two months. In November, a coroner's jury brought in a similar decision in the case of Richard O'Brien, who died after telling police arresting him: "I can't breathe."

In both cases, the verdict ap-peared to fly in the face of earlier decisions by the Crown Prosecution Service that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute any officers involved n either incident. Now the CPS has been forced to reconsider its decisious.

There have been remarkably few prosecutions to have resulted from cases involving allegations of brutality, perhaps even more surprisingly. there have been equally few disciplinary actions.

In the case of Oliver Pryce, a 30 year-old man who, like Mr Lapite, died as the result of a police neck hold, there was both an "unlawful killing verdict" and, in a civil action for damages, an admission by Cleveland police of liability. But no officers were ever charged or disciplined.

In London alone in 1994, police paid out nearly £1.4m in damages and even more in lawyers' bills, winning outright only 24 out of 304 cases. In 1993. they paid out nearly £1.1m. plus costs, winning outright only 16 of 243 cases. Over those two years - the latest for which figures are available, £1.5m was paid out to settle 48 serious claims - including one for be undermined."

and false imprisonment. But although dozens of po-

lice were involved in these. none were prosecuted and only four disciplined. One officer was cautioned, another fined and two "given words of advice".

Yesterday lawyers and MPs suggested the lack of any apparent action against officers, suggested an absence of will on the part of senior officers, in-cluding Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, to tackle the problem.

Scotland Yard declined an invitation to discuss the matter in depth, but has in the past maintained a reluctance to pursue disciplinary action because people chose to suc, rather than go through the formal complaints procedure. Their argument is: If there is no complaint, how

can there be any action?" But Raju Bhatt, a leading London solicitor, said: "What more do they need in the form of a complaint than a detailed statement of claim and witness statements in support?"

He said that when there had been adverse findings by judges and juries, there should be even more compulsion on senior officers to investigate. "Instead, what is happening is that officers are being led to believe that their activities are acceptable because they can get away with it. "If there was a suspicion that you or I, as a member of the public, had been involved in a serious attack, we would be arrested, held in custody, probably charged, and brought to court within the year.

But Sir Paul is on the record as saying that solicitors and complainants saw the police as a "soft option" to sue and that he was determined to settle less and fight more actions in court.

Yesterday, Chris Mullin, the Labour MP and veteran justice campaigner said; The Metropolitan police are paying millions each year in damages and lawyers' fees, yet the Commissioner is flatly refusing to take any action against officers whose misbehaviour is responsible for this cost to the taxpayer. The longer this goes on, the more that public confidence will

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Man admits thefts of rare book plates

A landscape gardener cut hundreds of pictures from libraries' rare antique books worth up to £289,000, a court was told yes-

Joseph Beilwood, who has been banned from going into any library until his case has been dealt with, sold or swapped them making up to £37,000,

Bellwood, 43, of Swillington, West Yorkshire, has admitted 12 sample charges of theft and damaging property between January 1994 and June 1995. Mr Hicks told Judge Mota

Singh that the value of the

Southwark Crown Court in books involved had been estisouth London was told by Marmated at £189,000-£289,000. He volved and the amount his said 1,149 plates, illustrations tin Hicks, for the prosecution. and prints had been stolen. mostly from the British Library, the London Library, Leeds Central Library and Birmingham Central Library, of which 439 had been recovered or traced. Justin Shale, for the defence,

were disputed. He said the volumes were worth £100,000 and Mr Bellwood's benefit £16,000. He asked for an eight-week adjournment so these matters could be dealt with. The judge

Ecstasy smuggler jailed for six years

A drug smuggler who brought ecstasy and "speed" valued at £5.6m into Britain was jailed for six years yesterday.

John Moore, 23, of St Helens, Merseyside, was said by his lawyer to be "somewhat im-mature" and had been been sucked into the crime by others. Judge Keith Simpson told him at Maidstone Crown Court: "I have no doubt whatsoever von were a very minor cog and insignificant figure in the hier-archy of drug trafficking. I can't

right mind would entrust you with £5.5m worth of drugs. The court was told that Moore smuggled 400,000 ecstasy tablets worth £5m, and 3.64kg of 90 per cent pure amphetamine sulphate, with coach firm boss Trevor Haskayne, Haskayne, 56. of Meols, Wirral, was convicted

imagine that anyone in their

in December of drug smuggling and jailed for 18 years.

David Fisher, for the prosecution, said Haskayne, boss of Montravel in West Kirby, Wirral, used a weekend shopping trip to the Netherlands by coach as a cover.

Moore, who admitted the charge, and his wife, 20, flew from Manchester to Amsterdam on 3 December 1994. They stayed with Haskayne's party at the Lancaster Hotel.

Passengers saw Moore walk to the coach carrying three large holdalls. During the journey to Calais, another passenger saw Haskayne give Moore £80.

Haskayne put a sign on the coach saying "Dunkirk Shopper, Coach 2", even though there was only one, to enable them to pass through Customs quickly. But the bus was searched and a sniffer dog found the drugs.

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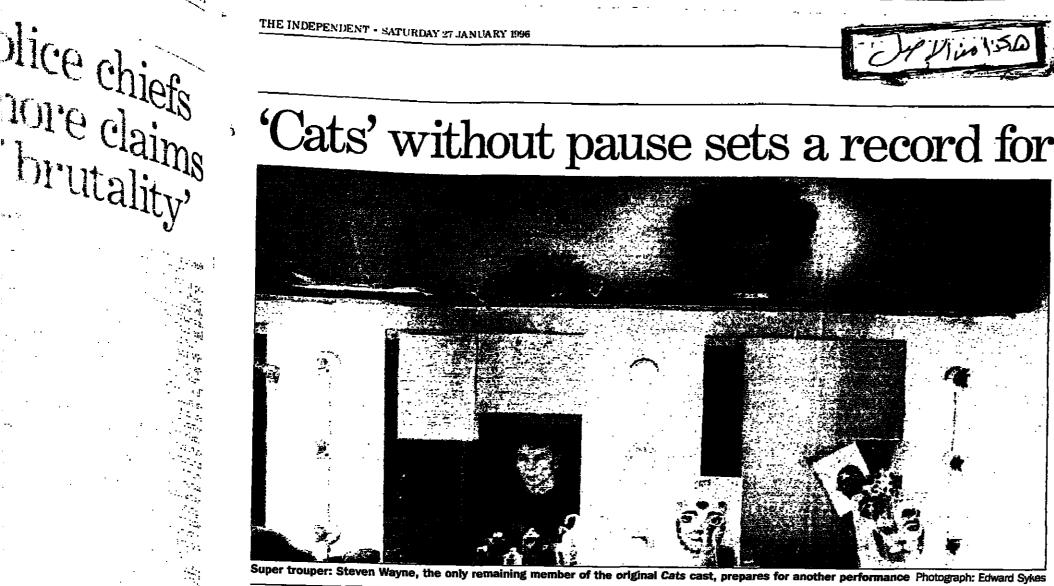
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Andrew Lloyd Webber's awardwinning musical Cats, which holds the accolade of London's longest-running musical, is set to enter the record books again on Monday when it becomes the longest-running musical of all

The show, which has grossed more than £1bn world-wide in ticket sales and merchandis will beat the previous record of 6.137 performances held by the Broadway production of A Chorus Line.

Cats opened at the New London Theatre in Covent Garden on 11 May 1981 and has played to full houses since, earning £85m in London alone.

The musical, based on TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, received mixed reviews when it opened but, with its revolving stage, was praised for pioneering new theatrical production values. Sue Uings, who was box office manager when Cats first opened and is now head of marketing for the theatrical impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh, sees the technology as a key factor in the



Super cats: Feline friends from the

forerunner of all the hi-tech musicals," she said.

Steven Wayne, the only member from the 1981 original cast still in the show, has not tired of hearing the Cats theme "Memory", "because everyone sings it differently. The only time it annoys me is when I am on holiday and I hear it piped

in a hotel or on a plane". However, the musical still has some way to go before it breaks the 44-year record of The Mousetrap, which is Britain's longest-running stage show.

Cats has been seen by 7 million □ Cars has been seen by / million people in London alone.
□ There are nine current productions playing around the world.
□ in 1989, it became London's

ongest-running musical.

Dame Judi Dench was due to play

Grizabella but had to pull out just Grazaceia but had to pur out just before the show because of an injured ankle. She was replaced by Baine Paige, who sang the worldwide hit "Mernory". recorded versions of "Memory" Sheet music sales of the sone

Building firms hit by 'cowboys'

GLENDA COOPER

"Cowboy" builders are flourishing while reputable firms go under because home owners and the Government allow them to, according to a new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The fear of poor quality work also deters many people from doing necessary work, imperilling the house's safety. A study for National Housing Week in 1994 estimated that £69bn needed to be spent to bring the UK housing stock up to the standard.

The report, Quality Repairs: Improving the efficiency of the housing repair and maintenance industry, studied 80 small builders in Bristol and north Somerset and found that only half those working even in reputable firms had a formal construction industry qualification or formal business training and that they must be working on few employed trainees.

The report noted that a "generally minimalist" attitude to business administration was common, and new technology was rare, even for such simple

in both pide

tasks as word processing. But while many reputable builders struggle on, home owners compound the problem because of their willingness to employ contractors who cut corners and avoid VAT by ac-

cepting cash payments. One contractor complained: "There's less work and materials have gone up but customers want cheaper prices. At times it's hardly worth working. Five years ago, I had 16 people working for me. Now I only have two and I have just a few weeks work ahead.'

Cowboy builders were described as traders who put in very cheap quotes based on the cost of poor-quality materials and inexperienced workers. Work was usually of poor quality and might not comply with building standards or regulations. They were less likely to use safety procedures and unlikely to possess public liability

Another contractor reported: "Often I hear that the client has found someone who will do the work at half my estimate. To do the quiet. They're not qualified and they're probably claiming

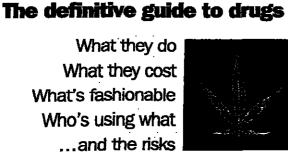
unemployment benefit." But taking the cheap option can often work out more expensive. "Customers are misled. The trouble is they are not experienced enough to know what they are getting and they may not realise how bad the job is until it is too late. I often get called to sort out bodged jobs."

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Labour to adopt 'stakeholder' pension reform

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Labour is poised to back funded second pensions as a replacement for the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme (Serps). The move would provide growing numbers of workers, including the lower paid, who rely heavily on Serps, with their own stake in investment funds for their

The change reflects an increasing consensus, both in the pensions industry and, to a degree, politically, that second-tier pensions in future should be funded from savings, not from pay-as-you-go national insur-

ance contributions. But it will mark a sharp shift in Labour policy, which for twenty years has backed the retention and reconstruction of Serps, introduced by Barbara Castle in 1975 with cross-party

Chris Smith, Labour's social security spokesman, said yes-

had been taken. But in an interview with the Independent, he said: There must be serious question marks about the longterm sustainability of pay-asyou-go models for second tier pensions," - where today's taxation or contributions pays for today's pensions and the money is not invested.

Since 1988, the Government has cut the final value of Serpsby three-quarters, in part because of fears that with rising numbers of elderly up to the year 2030, future taxpayers would not pay the additional 150bn a year the full Serps pensions would have cost.

-Any pay-as-you-go scheme is open to the predatory attacks of governments less sympa-thetic to the needs of a future generation," Mr Smith said. Funded second pensions with defined contributions producing a decent rate of return looked "ultimately a better ap-

eration of members, to run a funded second tier for them alongside as an alternative, or to "try to transfer everyone into a new scheme with the absolute guarantee that they will be no worse off than if Serps continued"

Indicating that he would favour the latter if the transfer costs were acceptable, Mr Smith said the alternative to Serps need not be a single, National Pensions Scheme, privately run at arms-length from Government, as advocated by this week's Retirement Income Inquiry. A better solution could be a range of competing funds where: "the Government sets the parameters and the private sector is involved in the development of the product."

In Australia, from where Mr Smith had just returned, intense competition within the private sector to run Governmentdefined industry-wide pension schemes had produced "remarkably low" running costs of



Eye of the storm: Richard Branson and his co-pilots at a press shoot in Morocco yesterday as rain blighted their plans Branson hogs hot air of publicity

> CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

Many of the sponsors of Richard Branson's project to fly a helium-filled balloon nonstop around the world have found themselves edged out of the media spotlight - to their

While Mr Branson has courted attention from newspapers, radio and television on behalf of the three Virgin companies co-sponsoring the project which has an estimated cost of £2.5m - the other 91 sponsors involved with it have struggled to win any attention at all.

Bad weather has delayed the balloon's take-off by more than a week from its planned start, and it will probably not take off from Marrakesh, in southern Morocco, until next week.

A number of sponsors are privately faming at the manner in which Virgin has taken the

lion's share of the publicity. while spending comparatively

Almost all the equipment for the project - including the high-technology balloon material and propane fuel to power the engines needed to keep the three-man crew alive while aloft has been donated by outside

companies. Many people have worked for free to assemble and test the balloon, though their hotel costs are being covered by Virgin. The team, numbering almost 50 people, has now been at the site near Marrakesh for almost two weeks while the weather - particularly the pattern of winds - has made a take-

off impossible. The balloon material consists of 16.000sq ft of high-strength, aluminium-coated plastic worth at least £15,000, provided by HiFi Industrial Film, based in Stevenage. The company, with

annual revenues of just £7.5m, had hoped to benefit from publicity. Instead, it has found its name almost submerged, while the balloon now bears Virgin's name in large letters. "We have had to fight for everything," said

Andrew Mallard, who represented the firm in Morocco. The 4.5 tons of specially processed liquid propane fuel that will power the engines was provided free by Mobil. Just over a fortnight ago. Mobil received an urgent request to deliver the fuel to Marrakesh three days ahead of schedule. But on arriving two weeks ago.

But David Partridge, a Virgin director who is the project's manager, says this was because Mr Branson was very keen not to be beaten in the attempt to make the first non-stop cir-

the drivers, paid by Mobil, were

told that the balloon would not

be lifting off for at least five

cumnavigation. That was threatened earlier this year by the launch of a balloon piloted by an American, Steve Follett. "Our original plan for when we wanted the propane and he-

lium went out the window when Steve Follett took off, Richard wanted everything done right away. We didn't want any holdup caused by the balloon being ready but the helium or propane not being there.

"Richard, in his zest to be first and not beaten, applied pressure on me and everybody in the team to make it work.

However, the delays caused by the weather have meant that the extra effort has gone to waste, and left observers wondering what the rush was about.

If the unfavourable weather continues into February, the attempt may have to be abandoned until November, when air conditions at 30,000ft will once again be suitable to try a flight.



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SARAH HELM Brussels
PAUL WALLACE

Monetary Union may have to be delayed were reinforced vesterday by new figures suggesting that even Germany may fail to meet the conditions for the 1999 launch date.

On Thursday British ministers suggested that the collapse of monetary union plans was imminent and that France and Germany may be forced to change course within weeks.

The remarks were fiercely rejected yesterday by the European Commission and treated with suspicion in many European capitals, where the comments were widely seen as an attempt to undermine the entire venture.

However, serious doubts about the feasibility of merging major European currencies on the terms set out in the Maastricht treaty remained widespread. Speaking at a conference in Germany yesterday, Philippe Seguin, the Gaullist head of the French National Assembly, described the present EMU timetable as "risky and

Germany's latest economic predictions added to the gloom. Bonn announced that it expects its public spending deficit for 1996 to be about 3.5 per cent of economic output exceeding the Maastricht rules for joining EMU by 0.5 of a point. Countries wishing to join monetary union in 1999 must have achieved the 3 per cent deficit limit by the end of 1997. Earlier this month, Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, predicted that Germany's budget deficit would be brought down in time to the 3 per cent level. His predictions now seem highly optimistic.

A report by the economics ministry said that the German economy would grow by only 1.5 per cent this year. Unemployment would rise by 250,000 to Predictions that European average 10 per cent of the workforce - up from 9.4 per cent in 1995.

But officials in Bonn made it clear last night that the government is determined to stand firm on the EMU timetable, in the belief that any weakening would remove budgetary disci-pline from Germany and other EU countries and make the economic situation worse.

The European Commission continued to reject predictions of imminent collapse. Officials accused British ministers of capitalising on the wave of nervousness in Europe for domestic political purposes; the Government negotiated an opt-out from the single currency at the Maastricht summit in 1991. and Tory Eurosceptics have demanded a commitment to keep sterling independent but the Prime Minister has refused to

make a decision until next year. "Nothing that has happened this week suggests any real sapping of political will in France or Germany," said one senior official. Commission economists argue that the economic news is not yet so desperate that the EMU timetable, or rigid budgetary discipline, must be abandoned. This would only happen if a recession looked inevitable "and there are no signs of that," they insist. Other economists are not so confident.

Speaking in Paris, Yves Thibault de Silguy, the EU Economic Commissioner, repeated earlier Commission predictions that between eight and 10 countries should be able to meet the Maastricht criteria for monetary union by the end of 1997. He said that a delay in the launch would mean a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty.



Turban power: Sikh troops in the parade in New Delhi yesterday to mark the anniversary of India becoming a republic in 1950. India's newest missiles and tanks were also displayed

Photograph: Ajit Kuman/Al

Polish leader wants secret files opened

ADRIAN BRIDGE Central Europe Correspondent

Poland's President, Aleksander Kwasniewski, is to push for the country's Communist-era se-cret police files to be opened. The move follows the resignation this week of the Prime Minister, Jozef Oleksy, over claims

that he was a KGB spy. Mr Kwasniewski, a former Communist, wants the files to be made accessible to an independent commission that would then be able to rule whether candidates for senior government posts had been informers.

The aim of the legislation, which would be modelled on that passed for east Germany, would be to draw a line under the Communist past and es-tablish ground rules on the extent to which politicians can be judged today for what they did in the past. "I would like to help Poles ... settle accounts from the more distant and the recent past," said Mr Kwasniewski, who, like most ex-Communists, previously opposed any open-ing of the secret-police files. His change of heart was undoubtedly prompted by the fate of Mr Oleksy, his party colleague, who spent the past month try-ing to defend himself against allegations that he was a Moscow spy for more than a decade. Even as he announced his res-

gnation on Wednesday, Mr Oleksy insisted he was innocent but acknowledged he had been friendly for many years with a Russian diplomat who worked for the KGB. That the Prime Minister was forced to quit before having been found formally guilty underlined the continuing potency of the past, and the extent to which nearly all senior east European politicians still live under its shadow.

The only former Warsaw Pact country that fully opened its files is the old East Germany, where anyone who worked for the secret police has been barred from public office and where everybody has been entitled to see their own files. Although the decision to open the files was controversial, it has been considered a success, ensuring that allegations are based on fact rather than rumour and allow-

ing ordinary east Germans to find out at last who it was who was spying on them for all those years.

Mr Kwasniewski is involved in (alks with party leaders aimed at agreeing a successor to Mr Oleksy. In the legislation he intends to present to parliament. he will propose a commission to oversee the files, now in the charge of the interior ministry. The commission is to have access to all pre-1989 files and, in

special cases, more recent ones. The President's former Communist party colleagues in the governing Democratic Left Al-liance are likely to support the move. As part of their attempt to show themselves to be genuinely reformed social



democrats, they want to be seen to be open and honest about their backgrounds.

Ironically, resistance to the new law is likely to come from the centre and right opposition parties, which feel the initiative is a smokescreen to deflect attention from the Oleksy affair.

Some analysts say the opening of the files could reveal more collaborators from the ranks of the old Solidarity movement than among the former Communists themselves.

But then, as the east Germans discovered, much of the information in the files was fabricated by agents over-anxious to please their bosses. And the files of many of the old Communists who really worked as informers mysteriously disappeared just before the final collapse of

IN BRIEF

Students jailed after secret trial

Cairo - Twenty-four Libyan students were tortured and convicted in a secret trial on charges of taking part in antigovernment riots, Annesty International said. They are believed to be serving terms of up to nine years, and are not being allowed access to their families or lawyers.

No apology

Oslo - Israel agreed to pay compensation to the wife and daughter of Ahmed Bouchikhi, an innocent Moroccan waiter killed during a bungled 1973 Mossad assassination in Norway, but stopped short of apologising, according to lawyers for the family. AP

Internet Nazis

Bonn — Deutsche Telekom, Germany's biggest Internet provider, cut off access to neo-Nazi material posted on the global network by Ernst Zuendel, a German right-wing ex-tremist living in Canada, a day after prosecutors said they were considering incitement charges against the telephone company and another firm.

'Anti-white' Mandela

Johannesburg — South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement accused President Nelson Mandela of being "antiwhite for agreeing to meet the black American Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who arrives for a visit today.

All wrong

Houston, Texas - A pregnant runaway girl who touched off an international search because she was thought to be ten has turned out to be 14. She was also not as far along in her pregnancy as had been reported, or going by her correct name. Reuter

Picture rail

Bordeaux - Teachers in Bordeaux, where the French Prime Minister. Alain Juppé, is mayor, protested that his portrait had been hung in several schools and nurseries. Reuter

Kiss of freedom

Dedham, Massachusetts -Christopher Glover, 20, escaped from jail after his girlfriend, Shannon Rideout, managed to pass him a key to his handcuffs during a passionate kiss. He was recaptured, and both face charges.

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'Remember me, but let me go – that's it'

Death Row: Utah execution goes 'like clockwork'

Prison log of Taylor's last night

Inmate Taylor received his antacid.

pizza, coffee. Taylor declines.

prayers and the "After Life".

hymns at this time.

is no need for them."

Taylor's mood appears positive.

20.01 Deputy Warden offers Inmate Taylor more soda,

Taylor asked if he could have his antacid liquid. Warden Galetka stated he would take care of this.

Chaplin Rodriguez and John Taylor are discussing

Inmate Taylor still talking to his Attorneys. Seems

laughter. Taylor seems relaxed and almost happy.

to be in good spirits and adamant to proceed.

Constant conversation, sprinkled with frequent

Inmate Taylor is visiting Attorneys Rogers and

Brass and Father Rodriguez. They are singing

Warden Galetka asks Taylor if he wants to wear

his glasses for the execution. Taylor says, "There

22.48 Father Rodriguez reading scriptures. Taylor is

crying, sitting very still with head bowed.

23.50 Taylor taken out of death watch area. Area secured.

DAVID USBORNE Draper, Utah

It had been denounced worldwide as inhumane and barbaric. And so, maybe, it was. But the execution by firing squad of John Albert Taylor, convicted nesses. Strapped into the spechild killer, was swift and supris-ingly clinical. It was not a messy just 20ft away, Taylor probably death - as with Gary Gilmore 19 years ago - but precision-per-fect. It passed, in fact, exactly would have travelled faster than

as both the victim and executioners had wanted.

When their triggers were pulled at 12.04am, the five .30 hunting rifles delivered one clean report - an abrupt "boom", said one of the witnever heard the explosion. The

the speed of sound. Within three minutes, he was pronounced dead.

It was what remained afterwards that best described an execution that had been so painstakingly orchestrated. In the plywood that had been behind the convict, the bullets had made just a single hole, about a third of an inch deep and so narrow that a dime would have covered it. Thus, Utah, which in 2002

will be host to the Winter Olympics, was a state experi-encing relief yesterday. For many among its majority Mor-mon population who still believe in the teachings of their church's earliest leaders, the required "blood atonement" had been duly achieved. But while blood had been spilled – a slowly spreading patch of damp-ness on Taylor's dark prison jumpsuit where a small white target had been placed, indicating his heart - there had been no ghastly gushing and no gore.
"It was like clockwork," the prison warden, Hank Galetka. declared. "It went as rehearsed."

When Gilmore was shot for the killing of a motel clerk, he was strapped to a simple office chair. Whisky had been smuggled in to the chamber, and money changed hands as reporters bought the accounts of witnesses. And there was no catch his blood. But Taylor's

Killer: John Albert Taylor shackled in his cell

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journalist who was one of Tay-

health problems - an enlarged

passing was like Gilmore's in one respect. He never once wave-red from his determination to go through with it. Even at the last moment, he could have asked to resume his appeals process. But he did not. And it was he who, one mouth earli-

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PHILCO

ing squad rather than by lethal injection. swollen legs and feet - bound him to his death wish. He did

Beverly DeVoy, a freelance Taylor's mood in his final lor's three invited witnesses, said hours in a "death watch" cell adjacent to the execution chamheart, bleeding ulcers and ber was depicted in pithy

progress reports typed out

Victim: Charla King, seven, 1984

hourly from mid-afternoon and distributed to the media. For example: 22.00 - Inmate Taylor seems to be in good spirits. Visiting with his attorneys.

sprinkled with frequent laugh-

ter. Only occasionally were their hints of anguish. 22.48 -Taylor is crying, sitting very still with his head bowed.

Even in his death chair, when given the opportunity to make a last statement, Taylor was sanguine. "I would just like to say to my family, my friends, as the poem was written: 'Remember me, but let me go." In a whisper, he added: "That's it". The warden then retreated to the back of the chamber, counted out loud to three and ordered, "Fire!"

Taylor never confessed to the murder for which he was cxecuted. In an interview last Monday with two high-school reporters, he said again that he had not murdered Charla King. 11. The girl was discovered dead on her bed by her mother, Sherron King, on 23 June 1989 — naked, a telephone cord around her neck and her underwear stuffed in her mouth. Of Mrs King, Taylor said: "There's really not much I can say to her. I'm sorry for her loss ... I didn't do it."
Is Taylor's destined to be the

last execution by the bullet in America? Perhaps. But recent attempts to introduce legislation to end the practice have stirred little support amongst state politicians. Nor was there much sign of sympathy for Taylor among the citizenry as he perished on Thursday night. How many were there in the congregation at a nighttime vigil in St Ann's Episcopal church in central Salt Lake City, for example? Only five.

Hillary Clinton takes oath over Whitewater

JOHN CARLIN

Hillary Clinton was testifying under oath yesterday before a grand jury seeking to establish whether she is deceitful or just plain disorganised. If the 23 members of the grand jury, who conduct their work in to-tal secrecy, find sufficient evidence that the wife of the President of the United States lied, she could be indicted for

conspiracy to obstruct justice. In the absence, however, of any clarity as to what exactly it is Mrs Clinton might be covering up, it appears more likely that the impact of the hearing will be more political than criminal, providing ammunition in this election year to those who question President Bill Clinton's judgement and

integrity. Mrs Clinton's undignified ordeal yesterday, one never before endured by a First Lady, revolves around a pile of legal documents sought for two years by investigators into the complex Whitewater investment affair. The papers eventually turned up in the private quarters of the White House.

The 116 pages contain the law practice, of correcords of work done by Mrs not have done it."

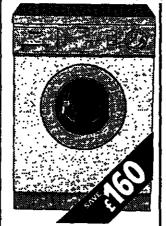
Clinton 10 years ago as a partner in the Rose law firm in Arkansas on behalf of Madison Guaranty, a savings bank that went bankrupt and which was owned by the Clintons' partner in the ill-fated Whitewater

property venture. Before a White House aide stumbled upon the documents, which were simply lying on a table in the First Family's book room, three weeks ago, Mrs Clinton had maintained that her work for Madison Guaranty had been "minimal". The records indicate that over 15 months she did 60 hours of work for Madison. Debate continues over whether that was "mini mal" involvement or not.

Mrs Clinton said in a news paper interview published yesterday that it would be "a relief" to answer prosecutors' questions. "This is not a first that I'm particularly pleased about," she said, "but I think that it's a necessary part of the investigation, and I intend to co-operate."

Speaking of what she called her "limited" work for Madison Guaranty, she said that had she foreseen 10 years ago that people "would try to distort it to undermine my reputation and my law practice, of course I would

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Yeltsin reshuffle ends with pledge to stand by reforms

PHIL REEVES

Boris Yeltsin yesterday declared that his government reshuffle was more or less complete, after a turbulent lew weeks in which he has lurched towards the hardline camp and given his supporters at home and abroad a nasty dose of the jitters.

The President also reiterated his commitment to reforms - a move clearly intended to soothe international concern about the purge of top liberals from his administration and his attempt to use force to crush Chechen rebels in Dagestan. And he was jubilant about Russia's acceptance on Thursday into the Council of Europe.

However, with only five months to go before a presidential election, he seems to be shifting his definition of reform in the hope of winning over the millions of impoverished Russians who, denied the fruits of the emerging free market, have turned to the Communists and ultra-nationalists.

The Boris Yeltsin of 1996 no longer talks of anti-inflationary policies, but waxes lyrical about spending on social issues. Take the last few days: he has agreed to pay more than \$4.5bn (£2.9bn) to Chechnya; ordered an increase in pensions and student grants, and declared that would be set up to cover gov-

ernment workers' salaries if their wages were delayed. Yesterday - despite reports that Russia's new strategy could jeopardise a \$9hn loan from the International Monetary Fund there was more of the same: "The most important task is ... protection of the social and economic rights of the people." Mr Yeltsin told a meeting of regional officials.

Meanwhile, the President defended his government purge by saying that it was "dictated by conditions". As part of this process, he has thrown overboard his chief economics strategist, Anatoly Chubais, his chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, and the Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev. These changes have coincided with rumblings from Russia about a shift of focus away from the West and towards the East, principally India, China and Iran.

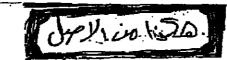
But there were signs yesterday that the recent friction with Washington, which was partieularly alarmed by the sackings, was beginning to ease. After initially turning down an invitation to Moscow from Russia's new Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, the US Secretary of State. Warren Christopher, has agreed to a private meeting with him in Helsinki on 10 and 11 February, followed by an offia "President's social fund" cial visit to Moscow in March.

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Trial spotlights vice gang wars

IMRE KARACS

High-fliers from the world of finance and prominent characters from Frankfurt's low life were brought together vesterday for the trial of Germany's most brutal killings in recent history.

In the dock at Frankfurt's central court stood an ethnic German couple from eastern Europe, accused of strangling the owner of the most exclusive brothel in town along with his wife and four prostitutes. The six victims were forced to lie face down and then garretted with electric wire on 16 August 1994.

Among the 70 witnesses to appear are the clients: business folk who had no trouble charging the fees of 350 marks (£160) an hour to their company expense accounts. And watching attentively from the fringes are the shadowy Russian and Ukrainian mafias hattling for a piece of the action in Ger-

many's lucrative sex market. It is a trial where some of the victims appear more sinister than the perpetrators. The brothel, a stuccoed villa a short taxi ride from Frankfurt's business district, was owned by Gabor and Ingrid Bartos, Hungarians with a taste for the

places, Though Bartos only employed four prostitutes, he made enough money to own a private jet, which he used to ferry Russian women to Germany. He changed his employees frequently. The four east European prostitutes murdered that night had been in the country only for a few days.

Though German detectives uncovered nothing when they retraced Bartos's steps to Budapest, suspicion lingers that he imported more than his fair share of women, provoking the wrath of hig crime syndicates from the anarchic lands of the former Soviet Union. That is certainly the assertion of the main accused, Eugen Berwald, a 25-year-old immigrant from Moldova, who claims his only role in the crime was to let a Russian hit squad into the brothel on the night of the

massacre. This yarn was stretched to the limit of credibility when the defence yesterday called a witness caught up in a government sting against plutonium stouggling. The implication is that Bartos earned his fortune in this business, but fell out in the end

with his Russian partners. The police have a different story. Though they have been unable to exclude the link to organised crime, the prosecutors say Berwald did all the killings, helped by his wife, Sofia, who worked at the brothel. According to this scenario, the motive for the crime was greed, and the robbery went horribly wrong when the owner, Bartos, was accidentally killed in the struggle as Berwald tried to tie him up. In a fit of panic, Berwald is then alleged to have murdered every-body else staying in the villa.

The trial is set to run for three months, but it is unlikely that the whole truth will The case has already high-

lighted, however, the growing strength of east European crime gangs.
Out of some 200,000 licensed

prostitutes, more than a quarier come, courtesy of the various syndicates, from eastern Europe. Some 15,000 to 20,000 of these are lured to Germany with promises of respectable jobs, only to find themselves in

brothels against their will.
In the vicious struggle for heremony in this racket, the established German, Czech and Hungarian operators are being blown away by their new competitors from farther east.



Accused: Eugen Berwald in court charged with killing a brothel owner, his wife and Photograph: AFP

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four prostitutes. Berwald's wife, Sofia, faces robbery charges

Café rumours raise bomber from the dead

PATRICK COCKBURN and STEPHANIE NOLEN

Is Yahya Ayyash, the Palestinian bomb-maker thought to have been killed three weeks ago by a booby-trapped mobile phone, alive and well and living in Gaza, Egypt or Sudan? Many Palestinians believe he is. In the coffee shops of the West Bank they talk as much about how he may have survived assassination as they do about the results of the Palestinian general election.

He knew they were coming, said Sami Rashe, an accountant, sitting in a café in Ramallah, just north of Jerusalem. "He got a look-alike to stay in the house where he was hiding — and he got away." The body buried in the Martyrs' Cemetery in Gaza was not his, he added.

The story seemed to gather a little substance last week when the Jordanian newspaper Al-Bilad quoted an unidentified official of Hamas, the Islamic organisation to which Ayyash belonged, as saying the bombmaker had known that an Israeli attack was imminent. A Hamas colleague, eager for martyr-dom, took the fatal phone call. This enabled Ayyash to evade his Israeli oursuers again and escape out of the back door.

It is not surprising that Palestinians want to believe that Ayyash is still alive. The expertise required to send a suicide is not very great, but Palestinians liked the idea that here was a Palestinian the Israelis feared. They have the atomic bomb and we have Ayyash," said one.

Some Hamas leaders want to quash the rumours. At a memorial rally for Ayyash in Gaza. their spokesman, Mahmoud Zahhar, made a special reference to the stories of the bomber being alive: "Despite what you hear, I saw him myself and he was dead."

But Mr Rashe in Ramallah said: "Sure, they saw some-body who was dead. But if the bomb blew his head apart, how can they know it was Yahya?" There is another, more sub-

stantial, reason why Palestinians think there was something peculiar about the assassination. For a man who must have known he was No 1 target for Israel's Shin Bet security agency, he took very few precautions and had been staying in the same house in Beit Lahiya refugee camp for months. If the legend of Ayyash's ability to avoid detection was true, he must have known the Israelis would find him. Could he, therefore, have used the assassination plot to escape Israeli retribution by pre-

tending it had succeeded?

A more likely explanation is that Ayyash's reputation as "the Engineer," first promoted by the Israeli media and then picked up by the Palestinians, was inflated, but in West Bank coffee shops this theory will find few

Peking unveils HK 'shadow government'

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With all the pomp and ceremony of a state occasion, President Jiang Zemin yesterday presided over a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People to establish officially the Pekingappointed Preparatory Committee, which will deter-

mine how Hong Kong will be governed after 30 June 1997. Nationalism was the theme of the gathering, broadcast live and billed by Peking as marking the start of the "final stage" of the transfer of Hong Kong's sov-

ereignty to China, now 17 months away. The most im-portant thing is to unite all patriots in Hong Kong," Mr Jiang said. "Under the flag of loving the motherland and loving Hong Kong, the Preparatory Committee can unite all forces that can be united."

The 150 committee members will in theory make some of the key decisions affecting Hong Kong's future, though it remains to be seen how much is Hong Kong members can influence the panel's Peking bosses. Ninety-four members come from Hong Kong, the rest from the mainland. Missing from the body, when it was announced last year, were any members of the Democratic Party, the most popular politi-

cal party in Hong Kong.
The Preparatory Committee is to appoint a 400-strong Selection Committee, which will choose a "chief executive", the most important post in Hong Kong when it becomes a so-Region of China next year.

Given Peking's unilateral de-cision to dishand Hong Kong's existing Legislative Council, the committee also will decide how to set up an interim appointed legislature to take over the moment sovereignty reverts to the mainland. It will also plan China's side of the handover ceremony and other cel-

The committee will have its

ebrations.



Jiang: Beating nationalist drum over Hong Kong

Hong Kong to liaise with the Hong Kong government. Still unclear is the extent to which the existence of the Preparatory Committee will undermine the authority of the Hong Kong government, and divide loyal-ties of the colony's civil servants if it becomes a de facto "shadow" government. For Mr Jiang, the successful return of Hong Kong is a key element in boosting his image as the "core" of the new leadership, as China called Special Administrative awaits the death of Deng Xiaoping, the ailing patriarch.

Okinawa rocked by new rape case

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The US forces have confirmed that another serviceman on the island of Okinawa has been charged with raping a girl, three days before the reopening of a gang-rape trial that has undermined the Japanese-US military relationship.

Senior Airman Anthony Williams, 24, has been charged under US military law with rape and indecent acts involving an under-age girl and with supplying alcohol to minors. The attack took place after a party last month at Kadena air base. The victim is American. the 14-year-old daughter of another airman at the base.

On Monday a court in Naha, Okinawa's capital, will hear closing arguments in the trial of three servicemen charged with raping a 12-year-old Japanese in September. The case caused uproar and prompted calls for the US presence on the island to be cul. In November the Defense Secretary, William Perry.

agenda when President Bill Clinton meets Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, in April. A joint group is to discuss "consolidation" and possible relocation of some facilities but both sides say overall troop levels are not up for negotiation. Yesterday's announcement

underlines the danger that, just as the US is mending fences over the September rape, an-other case will reinforce calls for troop cuts. It is the third reported rape since September but the first in which charges have been brought. Women's groups in Japan say many cases never get to court, because of shame on the part of the Japanese victim or cover-ups by the military.

The Stars and Stripes military newspaper gave the outlines of last month's attack. The mother of the girl was quoted as saying officers, including her husband's commanding officer, had discouraged the family from publicising the case. He said this could blow up bigger than the O J Simpson case and visited Tokyo to try to calm the that they'd never be able to get waters. The issue will head the an impartial jury."

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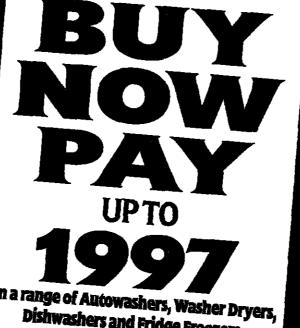
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Lying in state: Mourners file past the body of Moshoeshoe II in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho

Lesotho buries its stormy king

ROBERT BLOCK Thaba Bosiu, Lesotho

As the sure-footed steeds of Basotho tribesman escorted their dead king on his final journey through the mist of Lesotho's mountain passes, the ancestors of the Basotho people smiled upon their descendants. The skies opened and the rain came

down in buckets.
A S Mohale, a palace official and relative of King Moshoeshoe II, watched with satisfaction. The rain was a good sign.
"It's a blessing for a great man
who has died," he said. He was joined in his contentment by thousands of subjects who gathered yesterday morning in the shadow of Thaba Bosiu, "the mountain of the night", to pay their last respects to the king, one of Africa's few remaining royal heads of state.

The procession of tribesmen

and military brass bands stretched for miles along the road from the king's favourite farm in Matsieng to Thaba Bo-siu, birthplace of the Basotho nation and burial place of its kings. Behind the king's coffin,

Photograph: Gary Bernard/AP

and borne on a gun carriage, came the limousines of diplomats and dignitaries.
Among those who came here

21 miles from the capital. Maseru - were Presidents Nelson Mandela of South Africa.



Moshoeshoe: A turbulent monarch, twice exiled

Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia and Ketumile Masire of Botswana - the leaders of southern Africa's big powers.

The king's death in a road ac-cident on 15 January caught everyone by surprise and was considered a loss for the whole region. He was 57 and had been back on the throne for less than a year after his second spell in exile. There was speculation that rivalry between politicians and the military could be rekin-dled and that trouble would re-

turn to the kingdom. Thus the ram on the morning of the funeral was greeted with such relief. Traditionalists said it was a sign the king was leaving a legacy of peace and tranquility. It was not a gift that he had given his people often. The 30-year history of Lesotho has been one of democracy subverted by successive dicta-torships, with Moshoeshoe invariably at the centre of every political storm. He was an absolutist whose reluctance to accept his post-independence role as a constitutional monarch brought him into conflict with Lesotho's rulers and led to his

being deposed twice and exiled. The first time was for a few months in 1970 after a clash with the country's first Prime Min-ister, Leabua Jonathan. The king refused to be a rubber

wrapped in the royal standard stamp. In 1990 he was exiled by the junta of Major-General Justin Lekhanya, which had toppied Jonathan. The king was replaced by his eldest son, Letsie David Mohato.

Moshoeshoe was allowed home in 1992 but not to reclaim his

Letsie, embarrassed at being king while his father was still alive, staged a palace coup and dissolved the country's first democratically elected government. Presidents Mandela. Mugabe and Masire stepped in to resolve the issue and also to return Moshoeshoe to the throne, which he again ascended on 25 January 1995.

According to the eulogies yesterday, the king was working to resolve tension between the political parties and the military. still said to harbour political ambitions. He was also praised for his struggle against apartheid in South Africa, which surrounds

his kingdom.
The Commonwealth Secretary, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, called the king a Basotho patriot who kept Lesotho "on the side of justice, human rights and decency" during the struggle. "King Moshoeshoe died all too young, at the end of his youth and in the full maturity of his potential," Chief Anyaoku said. He died still a promise, when the best was yet to come.

The king was born Constan-

tine Bereng Seeiso on 2 May 1938, grandson of Moshoeshoe I, the founder of the Basotho nation, who willingly made his country a British protectorate in 1868 as a defence against the Afrikaner settlers of the Orange Free State. Basotholand was ruled by Britain until independence in 1966, when the 27year-old graduate of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was named King Moshoeshoe II. Mr Mohale said the king's

schooling in Britain gave him the air of an intellectual and an English country gentlemen, as well as that of a monarch. But if he enjoyed the sport of kings, his love of horses had more to do with his Sotho blood than Ascot. He also enjoyed keeping cattle, sheep and goats. It was his love of his livestock that led to his death: he was returning from visiting his ranches when

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Sir John Badenoch

John Badenoch was among the best of generalists, with a superb opinion across the whole field of medicine.

The son of a family doctor, he carried the ideals of general practice into his consultant work. Never neglecting clinical skills and the science of medicine, he brought to his patients a blend of family doctor wisdom and comfort, combined when necessary with the gravitas of an eminent consultant physician. He was by speciality a gas-troenterologist, but his practice

was much wider than that. These qualities, apparently effortless, were underpinned by long hours of work with his patients and their families as well as at his desk. Equally at home with sick car workers from Cowley as with important personages in Oxford (and they with him), he had a natural talent for discovering covert consequences of an illness and in dealing with them. It was astonishing to his colleagues that he could combine all this with so much advisory and committee work at which he also excelled - locally in Oxford, for government departments, for the Royal College of Physicians and other medical schools. He was in demand as an examiner in medical trials and a key figure in the planning of new



clinical schools in Cambridge and as far afield as Sultan Qabooe University in Oman.
All this combined with col-

lege and university responsibilities would have exhausted a lesser man. If such a load of labour and age did not wither him, he did sometimes look as though it had.

Badenoch came up to Oriel College, Oxford, in 1938 and attended the wartime Clinical mary. There he was awarded a prestigious Rockefeller Student's Fellowship which took him to Cornell Medical School in New York in 1941. His return took some three months, his ship repeatedly setting out and returning, with one episode of rescue from the icy Atlantic. He reappeared in Oxford with a hint of an American cadence in his speech to become Professor Leslie Witts's house physician in the Nuffield Department of

Medicine in 1943 and to marry Anne Forster a year later. Military service then separated them and took him as medical officer of the West African Rifles to Nigeria and the Gold Coast (Ghana) before his return to Sevenoaks in command of the military hospital there. After he was demobilised in 1948, his father's death led to a short period in the family practice at Leyton in London

until he returned in 1949 to

Witts's department as a Re-

There he joined Dr Sheila Callender in studying the problems of malabsorption from the gut. He made particular use of radio-isotopes in this work, which formed the basis of his Goulstonian lecture to the Royal College of Physicians in 1960,

He could have continued a fine career in academic medicine but was drawn instead to clinical work. His opinion became widely sought and this led to a move from the academic unit to an NHS consultantship in the United Oxford Hospitals in 1966. Before that he had made his mark as a teacher in the young clinical school as its Director of Studies between 1954 and 1965.

In the late 1960s and 1970s the demands on his time as a clinician were supplemented by an almost overwhelming load of committee work, on the Board of Governors of the United Oxford Hospitals, later the Area Health Authority, and most importantly on the planning committee of the New John Radeliffe Hospital.

His clinical practice remained a huge commitment in which his devoted patients were never allowed to be aware of the pressures under which he worked. Despite long hours, he always found time for family, for interests in photography and ornithology and for a pre-work ward round of the contents of his greenhouse usually

beginning at 6am or earlier. There were important contributions to the university too at this time. He became a Fellow of Merton College in 1965, its Subwarden in 1976-78 and Emeritus Fellow in 1987. He was Pro-Proctor of the university in 1967-68, when his son James took his BA in law.

After his retirement in 1985 the pace hardly slackened. Badenoch served on the General Medical Council in the 1980s, as an urbane chairman of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, of the committee of inquiry on the outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in Stoke-on-Trent and of the Committee of the Department of Environment concerning contamination of water supplies by cryptosporidiosis. Generations of overseas doctors had reason to thank him for his care of their postgraduate Sloane Fellow of the Royal

College of Physicians. John Badenoch's family origins were in Badenoch country around the upper strata of the Spey and in Banffshire. He showed the characteristics of the best of the north-east Scot, thorough, infinitely patient, compassionate, wise and with a great human touch. He was at his happiest in the family home at Portsoy in Banfishire, where he is to be buried.

J. G. G. Ledingham

John Badenoch, physician: born 8 March 1920; Director, Clinical Studies, Oxford University 1954 65; Consultant Physician, Oxfordshire Health Authority 1956-85; University Lecturer in Medicine, Oxford University 1956-85; Kt 1984; Emeritus Fellow, Merton College, Oxford 1987; married 1944 Anne Forster (two sons, two daughters); died 16 January 1996.



Iris Rowe

Iris Rowe achieved youthful fame as both a classical and an acrobatic dancer. Together with Robert Quinault, she toured widely in Europe and America. Their most popular creation, La Poupée d'Arlequin, a charming dance interlude in which Harlequin, danced by Quinault, performs an acrobatic sketch with his doll (Iris Rowe), received acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic.

Rowe's career started under the British dance teacher Mar- turned to England, posing to ilgaret Morris, who described her as "one of my first and best pupils". By the age of 12 Iris Rowe was taking leading roles other Cochran revue, under-in Morris's Children's Seasons studying the Russian dancer in London, and touring to Liv-erpool and Manchester. In 1915, at the age of 14, she played Puck in Ben Greet's production of A Midsummer Nighu's Dream at the Old Vic, and was entrusted by Morris with sole responsibility for the

arrangement of the dances. After the Second World War she joined C.B. Cochran, dancing in his revues at the London . II was here. In the re vue of 1920, London, Paris and New York, that she met Robert Quinault of the Paris Opéra Comique, who was making his début in England, and to whose

Harlequin she danced Col-

umbine. The following year saw her only venture into film. when she played the leading lady in a British Screencraft Pro-duction directed by C.C. Calvert, entitled Roses in the Dust. She then rejoined Quinault, forming the partnership for which she was perhaps best known. She spent two years in America as leading dancer in the Ziegfeld Follies, but re-

mained comparatively unknown

in England. In 1930 she re-

lustrate a series of articles on technique by Tamara Karsavina in the Dancing Times, and in anstudying the Russian dancer Alice Nikitina. The critic Arnold Haskell, in

an article in the Dancing Times, considered that she eclipsed her Russian rival in technique, artistry and charm. "Here is an artist," he wrote, "who so far has had far less opportunity than she deserves ... an English dancer, famous on the Continent. whose talent is only guessed at in England."

He went on to quote the verdict of the Russian critic André Levinson, who was never lavish in his praise: "She will be a big star - marvellous little feet, remarkably well placed, a magnificent impetus in all gyratory

movements, steel muscles, childish grace and suppleness Here then are rare things

united in one small person." This promise seems never to have been realised in full. Her career continued for a few more years, with appearances with such names as Serge Lifar, Anton Dolin and Stanislas Idzinowsky, after which she seems to have lost touch with the world of dance completely and permanently.

Rowe was also, from early youth, an accomplished artist, with a charming and original style. At the age of 10 she was awarded a Royal Drawing Society prize, and a number of her drawings were published in magazines and annuals in her early teens, with the encouragement of the publisher J.M. Dent. Later she designed costumes and illustrations for her dances and worked briefly for an art agency after leaving the

After her second marriage in 1939 she devoted herself to her family and to her garden, ie her dast.

Felicity Wild

Iris Caroline Rowe, dancer and artist: born London 10 October 1900; twice married (one daughter); died 6 January 1996.

Peter Stadlen

Bayan Northcott [obituaries, 23 January] does not mention Peter Stadlen's enforced wartime sojourn in Australia, writes

Ronald Stept. Like thousands of other German and Austrian refugees, Stadlen was interned in the summer of 1940 and shipped under atrocious conditions to Australia, The Home Office, reacting to an application signed by Thomas Mann, Yehudi Menuhin and Eleanor Roosevelt, amongst others, had actually ordered his release,

but, by the time it did so,

Mr Michael Falcon, former chairman,

Glyn Ford, MEP, 46; Sir Anthony

Garner, parliamentary and public affairs consultant, 69; Miss Frances

Gumley, television and radio pro-

ducer and broadcaster, 41; Mr John Hughes, former Principal of Ruskin

College, Oxford, 69; Mr Bill Jordan, president, AEEU, 60; Sir Timothy Kilson, chairman, Provident Finan-

cial plc, and former MP, 65; Profes-

sor David Lodge, author, 61; Mr

Alfred Marks, actor and comedian,

75; The Rev David Morris, MEP, 66;

Mr Claes Oldenburg, pop artist, 67; Mr Gordon Premice MP, 45; Mr Nick Raynsford MP, 51; Mr Ronnie Scott,

jazz musician, 69; Maj-Gen Martin

Sinnatt, former senior executive and secretary, Kennel Club, 68; Sir Trevor

Skeet MP, 78; Mr Ian Sloane, am-

bassador to Mongolia, 58; Professor

John Tavener, composer, 52; Mr

David Thompson, former chairman, Rank Xerox UK, 64; Sir Michael

Weir, former diplomat, 71; The Rev Barrington White, former Princi-

pal, Regent's Park College, Oxford,

62: The Right Rev James Whyte, for-

mer moderator of the General As-

sembly of the Church of Scotland, 76; Lord Windlesham, Principal,

Brasenose College, Oxford, 64; Robert Wyatt, rock musician, 51.

orwich Union Insurance, 68; Mr

Stadlen was already on the

On board ship he was a constant source of cheer to his fellow prisoners, encouraging them to sing. Among the few possessions he managed to bring was a piano transcript of Handel's Israel in Egypt. One internee had brought his violin, and on precious lavatory paper Stadlen transcribed the score for the violin and voices.

Once the internees were settled in a camp in the New South Wales bush, Stadlen formed a choir of 75 male voices and arranged a concert performance of Handel's work in front of the camp officers and local dignitaries. Later on there were performances of Mozart's C Major Mass, of a Palestrina Mass and of the Prisoner

Chorus of Fidelio. It took over a year before Stadien was returned to England. When he finally disembarked at Liverpool, he heard on the tannoy that Dr Vaughan Williams wanted him to get in touch urgently. He told me some years ago that this pleased him greatly. bought out the firm and retitled

Edward Thomas

Edward Thomas worked for British intelligence in different capacities but with equal dis-tinction throughout his life, during the Second World War as a naval intelligence officer and at Bletchley Park, afterwards at the Joint Intelligence Burcau, and latterly on the official history of British intelli-gence in the Second World War.

At Bletchley in 1942 to 1943,

he joined the naval component of the 24-hour watch which. working in shifts, translated and annotated German and italian signals from the Western Desert and the Mediterranean and transmitted them to the Admiralty and to the naval, army and air commands in the Middle East. This service was among Bletchley's most important contributions to the Allied war effort; it was directly instrumental in first delaying and then defeating Rommel in the desert, and was valuable, if less decisive, during the

Tunisian campaign.
Thomas was born in 1918, and educated at Portsmouth and Guildford Grammar Schools and then, from 1937 to 1940, at King's College London. In 1940, having joined the RNVR, he was posted as a naval intelligence officer to Iceland, where his duties included the management of the station that took direction-finding bearings on the radio transmissions of German U-boats. In February 1942 he was transferred to Bletchley Park, which was then experiencing a great surge in the ts decryptions.

Africa, in May 1943, Thomas was posted as intelligence officer and adviser on signals intelligence to the Commanderin-Chief Home Fleet. In this ca-

pacity his knowledge of the

At the end of the war in

German navy's signal routines and of Bletchley's cryptanalyt-ical procedures was called upon during many operations off the Norwegian coast and on the Arctic convoy routes, and not least during the operation in which the Home Fleet destroyed the battle cruiser Scharnhorst in December 1943. He once said that he would never forget the terrible sight of the Scharnhorst glowing red-hot throughout, from stern to stern, in the Arctic darkness in the minutes before she sank. It was after this engagement that, on the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, he was

awarded his DSC.
In 1946 Thomas joined the
Joint Intelligence Bureau, which was then replacing the wartime Joint Intelligence Committee as the agency for Central Intelligence analysis. He served in this until 1970, when he took early retirement to pursue his other interests. These were many and varied. Effective and enthusiastic in all he did, he was an expert gardener - so expert that on a visit to Malaysia, he discovered the plant named after him, Fiffistigma Thomasii - and a fine musician, the life and soul of more than one local orchestra. The nephew of the poet Edward Thomas, he was an attentive guardian of the memory of his uncle's life and works as co-President of the Edward Thomas Society. From time to time he translated a German book for British publishers. Above all, however, he loved his family and cherished his friends; and his friends were legion for, just as he did not accept fools gladly, he excelled in keeping

old friendships and making new Despite the call of these oth-



er interests, his early retirement did not succeed in extricating him from the world of intelli gence. In 1971 he became a founder member of the team that was being appointed to pro-duce the official history, British Intelligence in the Second World War, a project with which he stayed till the publication of the fourth and penultimate vol-ume in 1988. His dedication to this work over so many years was indispensible to its progress; and as the volumes he helped to produce were without precedent and without parallel. in that no other government has sanctioned so full and frank an account of its most secret activities, they form a fitting memorial to his many talents.

He married in 1964 Ruth Dyson, till recently Professor of Harpsichord at the Royal College of Music. She survives him together with his son and daughter from an earlier marriage.

Harry Hinsley

Edward Eastaway Thomas, intelligence officer, born Walton-on-Thames 16 May 1918: DSC 1945; twice married (one son, one daughter); died Dorking, Surrey 22 January 1996.

was married four times; first in

1938 to his compatriot Gioria

Gordon. Their only child, the

publisher Christopher Sinclair-

Stevenson, inherits the title of

Baron. His second wife was Bel-

gian, Lydia Eggerick, who died.

In 1966 he married Marie Pui-

Lai Young, a Chinese, a mar-

riage that lasted for 25 years. His

fourth wife was Swiss. Dynam-

ic and attractive, Sonja Lindblad

was the vice-president of the

Lindblad Travel shipping line.

But he had become pessimistic

seen the better years of Hong

Kong. I do not really want to

tired to the Mediterranean is-

land of Gozo, Malta. There,

they married and magnificent-

ly reconditioned an old farm-

house to which friends from all

over the world came to visit

them. Both continued to be con-

sulted and, right up until his

death, Hong Kong people con-

tinued to seek the opinion of

this scholarly and silken man

with the common touch.

He and Sonia Lindblad re-

watch the end of them all."

George Sinclair-Stevenson

George Sinclair-Stevenson was once the doyen of the lawyers

of Hong Kong. The personification of the English gentleman, he was elegantly mannered, discreet, and dressed to match. He was of a family which helped establish the good name of Britain in the world and in its third generation to be born abroad. He inherit-

uncle the title of Baron of Belgrano but he never used it.
He was brought up and educated in New Jersey. But in 1924 Cheltenham College became his Alma Mater, then Peterbouse, Cambridge, where

ed from an Argentinian great-

he graduated in Modern Languages and Law. He qualified as a lawyer in 1926. A true patriot, he joined the Supplementary Reserve in 1938 and was gazetted as an officer

into the Coldstream Guards. Six foot six inches tall, handsome and debonair, he looked the part. A year later he was living it in full measure. A gifted linguist, he acted as a liaison officer with Allied forces in North Africa, Belgium and Germany. He returned to law in 1946 but, after three years, was at-tracted to Macmillans the publishers, and appointed head of

their Amsterdam office. In 1951 he forsook publishing for general trading, to become vice-president of the house of Bunge, in Tokyo. When he accepted a three-year contract with a small firm of solicitors in Hong Kong, the arrangement proved so satisfactory that he it Stevenson, Low. From then until his retirement in 1991, he was its senior partner, legal adviser to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and the holder of a number of directorships and consultancies.

A gregarious and clubbable man, George Sinclair-Stevenson was President of the Law Society of Hong Kong and of the Hong Kong Society of Notaries, a member of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and of the Supreme Court Rules Committee. He about Hong Kong. In a valewas also twice President of the dictory speech he said, "I have Hong Kong YMCA and an active member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, part-owning

several horses. Sinclair-Stevenson had a pronounced, albeit discreet, love of life's pleasures. He kept a gourmet's cellar and was a founder member of Hong Kong's Tuesday Club, a gathering of the community's high-



Sinclair-Stevenson: silken

Avril Mollison George Egbert Sinclair-Stevenson, lawver: born Langford, New Jersey 25 December 1911; MBE 1946; senior partner, Stevenson, Low 1951-91; married 1938 Gloria Gordon (one son; marriage dissolved 1947), 1948 Lydia Eggerick (died 1965), 1966 Marie Pui-Lai Young (marriage dissolved 1992), 1992 Sonja Lindblad; died Gozo, Malta 14 January 1996.

Announcements for Gazetie BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding analyersaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing Memoriam) snoam is sean in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E.14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette answering into the first force, functions, Routhernessers in Indice, functions, Routhernessers in Indices, functions, Routhernessers in Indices in In (VAT extra). O'Inter variety are nonmousments (notices, functions, Forticousing marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Lectures

TODAY National Gallery: Rachel Barnes "Looking Backwards (iv): Van Gogh, An Ausumn Garden", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum Frances Musker, "17th- and 18th-cen-tury Fashionable Dress", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury

National Portrait Gallery: Ann

Kodicek, "Diaghilev in London". TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "Painters' Points of View", 2.50pm. National Portrait Gallery: Rose-

mary Kelly, "The Trial and Execution of King Charles I", 3pm.

Ready-Made Art", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Prince of Visites, Vice President, the National True, tomorrow joins Mrs Rosensory Verey in the levering a lecture about the graden at Highgrove in and of the National Trust in the Peak District and attends a reception at the Borton Opera House, Burton, Derbyshire.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays TODAY: Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed, robate of Harrods Holdings, 63; Professor Gillian Beer, President of Clare Hall, Cambridge, 61; Mr Nicholas Bomford, Headmaster, Harrow, 57; Sir Wilfrid Bourne QC, former Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 74; Dr Robert Burchfield, former editor of the Or-ford English Dictionary Supplement, 72: Mr John Bury, theatre, opera and film designer, 71; Mr Michael Collins, clarinettist, 34; Sir Kenneth Corfield, former chairman, STC, 72; Confield, former chairman, STC, 72; Mrs Mairead Corrigan-Maguire. joint Nobel Peace prizewinner, 52; Mr Michael Craig, actor and playwright, 67; Baroness Cumberlege, Under-Secretary, Department of Health, 53; Lord Dunboyne, former circuit judge, 79; Sir John Eccles, physiologist, 93; Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Etworthy, Captain of the Queen's Flight, 58; The Right Rev Henry Halsey, former Bishop of Carlisle, 77; Brigadier Rita Hennessy, former matron-in-chief, QARANC, 63; Mr John Hopkins, playwright, 65; 63; Mr John Hopkins, playwright, 65; Señor Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Di-rector-General, Unesco, 62; Mr Alan Milburn MP, 38; Miss Nina Milkina. concert pianist, 77; Baroness Ravlings, former MEP, 57; Mr Mordecai Richler, novelist and playwright, 65; Lord Ris, actor and former secretary-general of Mencap, 72; Mr Roger Sims MP, 66; Mr Neville Trotter MP, 64: Sir William van Straubenzee, former MP, 72; Lord Vinson, inventor, and Chairman, Institute of Eco-

nomic Affairs, 65.

TOMORROW: Mr Alan Alda, actor, 60; Mr Bobby Ball, comedian, 52; Mr

Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer, 48:

Mr Acker Bilk, jazz clarinettist, 66;

Mr James Callaghan MP, 69; Miss Enid Castle, Principal, Cheltenham

Ladies' College, 60: Sir Oliver

Chesterton, chartered surveyor, 83;

Mr James Cran MP, 52: Mr John Ed-

onds, general secretary, GMB, 52:

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. composer, 1756; Samuel Palmer, landscape painter, 1805; Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), author, 1832; Jerome David Kern, composer, 1885; Ilya Grigoryevich Ehrenburg, poet and novelist. 1891. Deaths: Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi. composer, 1901; Giovanni Verga, novelist and playwright 1922 Dame Gwen Firangeon-Davies, actress, 1992. On this day: the independence of Greece was proclaimed, 1822; a patent for the electric lamp was taken out by

Thomas A. Edison, 1879; television was first demonstrated publicly by John Logie Baird, 1926; a ceasefire began in Vietnam, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Angela Merici, St Ju-lian of Le Mans, St Marius or May

and St Vitalian, pope. TOMORROW: Births: Charles George Gordon, general and hero of Khartourn, 1833; Colette (Gabrielle Sidonie Colette) author, 1873; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, 1889; Paul Jackson Pollock, abstract artist, 1912.

Deaths: Charlemagne, Frankish emperor, 814; King Henry VIII, 1547;

Sir Francis Drake, sailor, at sea 1596; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library, 1613; William Butler Yeats, poet and playwright 1939; Herbert Ernest Bates, novelist, 1974. On this day: the Diet of Worms began, 1521; the *Independent* on *Sunday* was first published, 1990. Iomorrow is the Feast Day of St Amadeus of Lausanne, St Paulinus of Aquileia, St Peter Nolasco, St Peomas and St Thomas Aquinas.

Luncheons

Newspaper Conference Miss Betty Boothroyd MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, was guest of honour and speaker at the annual luncheon of the Newspaper Conference held yesterday eveni at the London Hilton, London WI Mr John Hipwood, Chairman of the Conference, presided.

Dinners

Honourable Artillery Company Major D.P. Gordon, Squadron Commander, Signal Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, presided at the Annual Dinner held yesterday evening in the Long Room at Armoury House, London EC1. Li-Gen S. Cowan was the principal guest. Lieutenant J.A. Bowman also spoke.

Public policy versus Christian principles One definition of a moral leader is one

whom people are unwilling to follow. In all the discussions about hypocrisy and education which have dominated this week. no one seems to have made the link between Philip Lawrence, the headmaster killed outside his school, and little Joe Dromey, Harriet Harman's son.

Philip Lawrence has been almost canonised in death, and quite deservedly. He seems to have been a very good teacher and a much-loved man. His death, stabbed to death outside his school while defending pupils from a gang of bullies, was a genuinely inspiring tragedy. There can hardly have been a parent in Britain who did not wish that their own children were looked after by such a man. This reflection, however, will have been followed almost instantaneously by another: that if I have any choice in the matter, my children are not going to attend a school where it is necessary for the head-master to lay down his life to defend them from other children, however infrequently this necessity may arise.

Such a decision might disappoint Cardinal Hume. He has fought bitter battles with Catholic parents in London about retaining the comprehensive character of Catholic secondary schooling. Some of these may be due to the conviction, natural to any former headmaster, that the last people who should have anything to do with education policy are parents; more, I suspect, derive from a belief in community. If Christianity is a universal religion, then Christian schools, like families, should teach people to live together who would not if they had any choice in the matter share the same continent, let

alone the same classroom.

faith oreason

Andrew Brown considers the curious gap between the religious teachings that

other people so obviously need, and those which we are prepared to tolerate ourselves.

Only last week, Bishop David Konstant of Leeds told a conference of Catholic independent schools that if forgone tax cuts meant that fewer parents could or would choose to have their children privately educated, this was "a sacrifice that should

be made for the greater good of the whole community". Joe Dromey's elder brother attends a Catholic school in the archdiocese of Westminster, so Ms Harman's decision must be seen as a slight on Catholic education policy as well as on that of old Labour. Like the rest of us middle-class types, she believes that even if society depends on the labour of heroes like Philip Lawrence. it is better for our own children to rely on

the efforts of more average teachers. That the Catholic Church finds itself to the left of new Labour in this matter is yet another illustration of the extraordinary divide between what the churches actually believe and practice, and what public opinion believes of them. The image of Philip Lawrence after his death was of

and moral absolutes against relativism. Yet the two don't go together at all. The moral absolutes propounded by Christian teaching have very little to do with traditional values, and this becomes increasingly clear as the churches in the West slide back into a pre-Constantinian state of ineffectual purity.

The values that keep society going and which get governments elected are not universalist at all. In a modern, well-polled democracy, getting elected depends on promising your supporters more at the ex-pense of the worthless parasites on the other side. Families show a marked and frequently unreasonable preference for their own members. William Temple said that the Christian churches were the only institutions that existed for the benefit of people who are not members. It follows that public policy cannot be conducted by wholly Christian principles, since the political world is composed of institutions which do exist for the benefit of their members, and shrivel if they forget this.

This is not a startlingly new conclusion. It belongs in that wide list of things that the English churches now believe without anyone else noticing that they believe them. Yet the ironies to which it gives rise are only likely to multiply as the next election approaches. On education, on immigration, and on taxation the mainstream churches turn out to be as close to Arthur Scargill as they are to any of the mainstream parties. And getting close to Arthur is not what most people would understand as following the Messiah. There must be something extremely strange and incoherent about our notion of community when this can happen, even if it a staunch defender of traditional values happens largely unnoticed.



The barbarian with a blueprint for a hostile Being the illuminating tale of how 'Graham' stole 'Fifi' from 1. Eyeing the prize under her master's nose. By wo years is a long time to stalk your prey. In the City's infamously short-Mathew Horsman and term view, two years is a lifetime, and the risks mount with every passing week. Too many **David Hellier** people get to know your plans. The adversary can build its for-Posthouse might be improved. By the summer of 1995, intimately involved in the bid tifications, and the target's discussions. John Nelson, the share price starts moving up, out of reach of a hostile bid. Robinson was itching for another acquisition. For Granada, growth by takeover was a necessary strategy. The

It is amazing that Granada could target Forte for so long without anybody outside the inner circle knowing. But it happened: the secret was kept, least until the few weeks Granada finally before pounced on 22 November. Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, determined a code name early in the game. From now on, Forte would be known as "Fifi," a suitably

derogatory moniker that painted the luxury hotels company as fey, flittish and profli-gate. Granada would be "Graham", after Graham Parrott, the company's commercial director: a good honest name, unpretentious and reliable. Needless to say the names gave rise to plenty of rude jokes.

There were two companies that the Irish-born Robinson wanted to buy in 1993, neither of them a pushover. One, LWT, was a leading television production and broadcasting company. The other was synonymous with luxury and

hospitality. Robinson and his chief lieutenant Charles Allen spent the autumn of 1993 mulling over the possibilities. Robinson was the strategist, the visionary, guided by simple principles of cost control and economies of scale. Allen was the details man, indefatigable and voluble.

The two men liked what they saw in Forte: it was an underperforming company with valuable assets, and ripe for takeover. The chain of budget and mid-market hotels and one of the UK's largest roadside restaurant businesses, under the names Little Chef and Happy Eater, fitted perfectly, they believed, with Granada's own operations. The upmarket hotels were less attractive to a company such as Granada, which knew lots about catering and mid-market next to nothing about luxury accommodation. That could be overcome through massive asset sales if the bid succeeded.

However, there were more fundamental obstacles - not least the presence of family management who would fight strenuously, and an antiquated share structure that gave eight doddering, titled men - the Council of Forte - control of 50 per cent of the votes in any takeover battle.

"We just didn't think we could overcome that," Robinson says. He was also prepared to believe that Forte's new management team might be given support by shareholders, making a hostile bid difficult to mount. Nevertheless, Robinson asked Granada's bankers, the blue-chip establishment firm Lazard Brothers, to have

'I think most work is pointless. There are

only three or four things you do a day

that have any effect on your business'

a close look at Forte.

firm's vice-chairman and John Dear, the managing director, took a personal interest, aware that a hostile bid would generate millions for the bank. The team decided to launch

the LWT bid first. Throughout 1994, Granada management worked

growth could not deliver the on integrating LWT with its existing television operations.

"Once the LWT deal was done," Dear says, "it had to be bedded down before the company could sensibly look at another acquisition."

But Robinson and Allen kept

a close watch on Forte, and received reports from Lazard at regular intervals. They also took turns visiting Forte hotels and restaurants: trying out menus, checking on service quality, timing waitresses. Says Robinson: "It was quite unfair - Charles got to stay at the George V while I stayed at the Posthouse in Ipswich.

As yet, the visits were informal. Allen and Robinson would exchange anecdotes about a visit to a Happy Eater, or muse about how one or another and asked Lazard to come up

offer. At a key meeting in August, the team that would work together throughout the bid gathered at Granada's modest office in Golden Square. In addition to Robinson, Allen, Nelson and Dear. Simon de Zoete represented BZW and Simon Bragg attended from Hoare Govell Henry Staunton, Granada's finance director, and Jonathan Clare, of PR firm

Citigate, completed the group. Sensing that it was time to be serious, the team agreed new, sobre code names for the operation: Granada would henceforth be "Madrid," while Forte was dubbed "Rome."

Meanwhile. Granada managers were sent out to Forte sites around the country, to gather intelligence. The aim was to identify where profits could be improved. Says Dear: The whole bid did not make sense for Granada unless profits could be improved by

£100m." Adds Robinson: "We knew these were extremely good sites but that the important work utation in the City. They had also decided the Council of would have to be done on the catering side. We developed a detailed pattern of the restaurants, graded their performance

cle that everyone had thought. On 2 August, Forte and estimated profits growth." announced stronger but still The other central issue was muted profits, following Sir financing. Granada needed to Rocco's two-year restructuring be able to raise £1.8bn through programme. Robinson saw his the issue of new shares, and getchance. The next day, the bid ting City backing was the team was put on full war footgroup's first true test. (In the ing. Robinson lined up extra event, four nail-biting hours support from Granada's broon the morning of the bid kers, Hoare Govert and BZW, proved enough to complete the equity financing arrangments). On top of that, another £2.5bn

was to be raised from banks. Secrecy had been important up until August; now it became crucial. Granada could not risk seeing Forte's share price rise sharply or its own drop before the bid was unveiled.

Robinson had been keen to go in October, but the preparations proved too time-consuming. It was only on 14 November that the proposed bid was put to the Granada board and approved.

The following week was dominated bymeetings and phone calls, as the offer document was prepared and the senior banks called in.

Only three banks were approached - Chemical Bank, Barclays and ABN Amro – in an effort to keep the potential for leaks to a minimum. Granada also pre-cleared the acquisition with the Office of Fair Trading, agreeing to sell Forte's 26 Welcome Break motorway service areas to avoid a reference to

monopoly regulators. On the eve of the bid, the team holed up in Lazard's drab City offices until the early hours for the final preparations. Phone calls were put through to six major shareholders, alerting them to the impending bid. Top of that list was Mercury Asset Management, whose vice-chairman Carol Galley would play a pivotal role in the two months of the battle.

The market had begun to sense something was up. Forte's share price rose 35p in early November, and the rumours began to fly. Forte's own advisers, including its PR firm Brunswick, received calls from Forte head office on the eve of

Chronology

company's core business of TV

rentals, broadcasting and

leisure were expanding at a

respectable rate and throwing

off plenty of cash, but organic

results Robinson was used to

Moreover, the news from

Lazard was encouraging. Forte's share price was weak

and Granada's was strong, Nel-

son and Dear pointed out.

Robinson had an excellent rep-

Forte might not be the obsta-

delivering to shareholders.

1934 Charles Forte opens Meadow Milk Bar, Regent Street. 1955 Forte wins contract to cater Heathrow Airport. 1958 Forte buys the Waldorf.

1968 Company goes public as Forte buys Georges V, Pans. 1970 Trust Houses merge with Forte, bringing Little Chef. 1985 Forte opens its first Travelodge.
1986 Forte links with PepsiCo to run Kentucky Fried Chicken.

1991 Geny Robinson arrives at Granada. 1992 Sir Rocco Forte takes over from Lord Forte.

1994 MAM backs Granada in £725m successful bid for LWT. 22 Nov 1995 Granada bids £3.4 billion for Forte. 2 Dec Forte announces sale of Lillywhites.

7 Dec Forte issues défence document. 27 Dec Sale of Forte restaurants to Whitbread for £1.05bp. 8 Jan 1996 Council of Forte agrees to sell 780,000 Trust shares. 9 Jan Deadline for Granada's final bid. They boost offer 12. 15 Jan Rocco splits dual chairman and chief executive role. 16 Jan Granada launches £384m dawn raid on Forte shares. 19 Jan Rocco buys 3.9 million Forte shares in his own name. 23 Jan Granada reaches the 50 per cent needed for takeover at 2.30pm.

Chips v Chintz

On the Road

Happier Eater or Littler Chef Some outlets to close.

 Refurbishment and new menus in all cafes. • Many cafes will incorporate popular franchises such as Pizza Hut and Burger King.

Prices likely to rise.

Low-end Hotels

 Travelouge, rosinouse
 Travelouge will merge with Granada lodge.
 50 sites to be "significantly expanded"
 Posthouses to be "rejuvenated" with "in-room entertainment and business services", and their restaurant menus. Travelodge, Posthouse

· Area-sensitive charges to maximise profits.

igh-end Hotels Forte Exclusive, Forte Meridien.

· Granada to sell off all 103 of these luxury and business:

· Forte will bid for them, along with the 52 Heritage hotels.



If you don't listen to your customers.

INSIDE Ore night Utere "The s The Way # We laugh #

Vou calling

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Perione is to sense of dis

this is part E 91 Bright Capital city

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Where to ski when



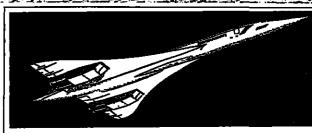






INSIDE STORIES

- o 'One night this bloke went "Oi, come I here." The club went silent. He says "The way it works is: joke, punchline, we faugh." "Yeah," says his wife. So I went "Easy, Easy." And he went: "You calling my wife easy?" Next thing his hands are round my throat'
- Peking is ugly, polluted, corrupt. It has a building site on each comer, and a population with a developed sense of disdain for foreigners. Yet this is part of the reason to visit what is arguably the most extraordinary capital city in the world
- In 1812 Lord Byron could write, J awoke one morning and found myself famous,' after his 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' was received with rapture. In 1996, writers can achieve a kind of fame long before they have published anything at all
- Salesmen have rarely enjoyed a good press, but even so Daewoo's findings were spectacularly damning: their customers rated car salesmen 'marginally higher than serial killers' Pushy, intimidating and patronising were some of the kinder adjectives



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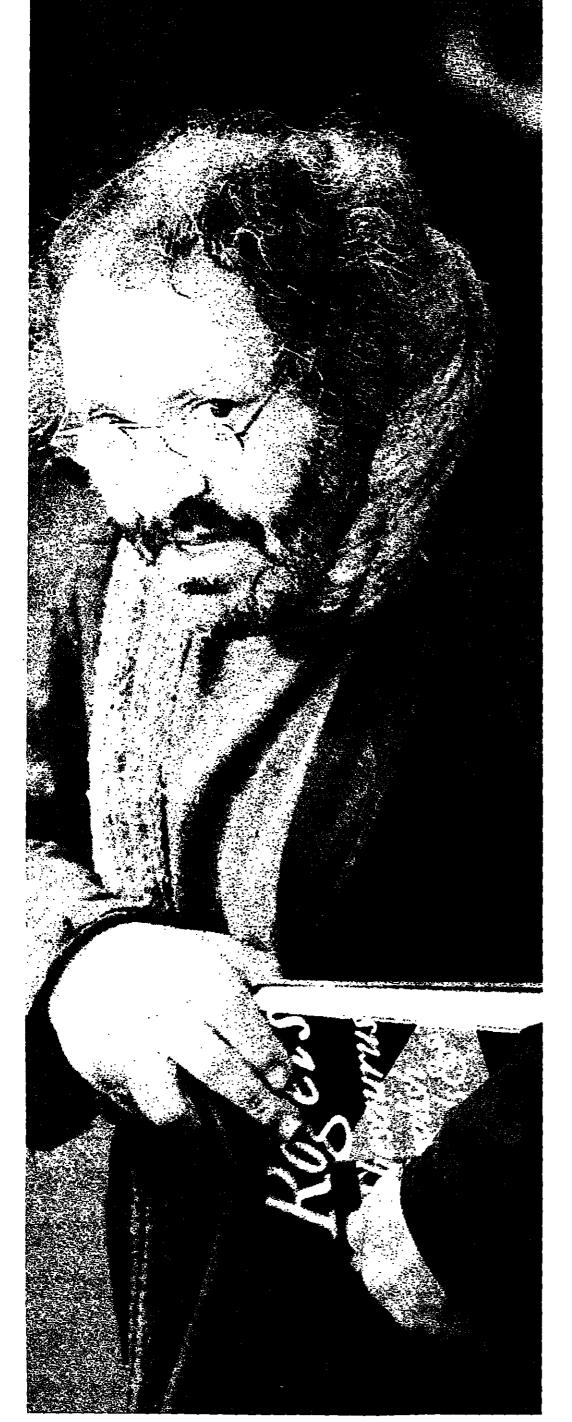
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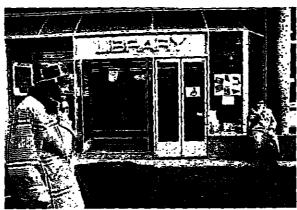
TV & RADIO





SILENCE, PLEASE

Pictures by Emma Boam. Story by Steven Poole.



staffian figure of a man, russetbearded, trampishly chic, is ensconced in one of the floor-does she have to be a lesbian?" skimming armchairs, concentrating fiercely on Roger's Thesaurus. He's doing a crossword. "Under-growth... 'Bracken' or 'thicket'. Yes, but that doesn't fit that one. which is 'sprained'... That's a film one - can't find that." Someone uggests an answer. "Emma Peel"! Where can I find out 'Emma Peel'? Is it a current series?"

The library is the place people come to find answers. Big answers, little answers. ("What's the chicken doing. mum?" "He's looking at a house.") They consult leaflets or medical encyclopedias, gaze at the small ads. read the papers, or drift around, just browsing. One businesslike woman, clutchherself on a course of musithrough the classics. I'm on

Lunchtime, and an elderly lady has stopped at a revolving stand of paperback crime novels. She has no time for some of the library's recent innovations, such as the section heading "Goo", promising "A Good Read". "It's not very nice, is it? It's bloody patronising," she says with a girlish chuckle, waving her walking-stick for emphasis. "If I'm pushed for time. I go to crime paper-

t's Saturday morning at Kentish Town Library in London. A Fal-woman's one. now. I find the detective is female. Now I don't

9)

In the children's section, three sisters are studying. Elizabeth. eight, is looking up information about the pyramids. We're doing a project on Tutankhamun, and the face that he had on his grave. Not the face he had on. "Six-yearold Rachel is "looking up the body, what's inside it, so when I'm older I can say to Mum and Dad.
I already know, so you don't have
to take me to school." She pauses. "I like the library, it's full of knowledge.

The afternoon wears somewhat sleepily on. People are idly leafing through newspapers. A woman, snug in a furry hat, sleeps, her head nodding forward into a splayed copy of an appreciation of John Gielgud. As darkness falls, the chiling a handful of CDs, has set dren's section starts emptying; soon all that remains is a pink-and-blue cal education: "I'm working toy triceratops lying abandoned on the floor.

beige mac is Philip Toms, a news-paper vendor with bird-like blue eyes. He's been here, reading, for hours. "This is a crime thing. It's about a wealthy family, and the elder son went off the rails and ended up murdering the whole family. It's based on the true facts." He has his own theory about crime. "I think there's no deterrent at all. except for chaining 'em to the wall. It's the lifestyle. This is the Nineties: it's dog eat dog. That's why I come into public libraries."



THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT...

BUY Heart of the Congos



Stock up on roast fish, collie weed and combread and settle back with this classic album. Lee "Scratch" Parry's production dates from 1977, when falsetto vocal duo The Congos dropped into Scratch's Black Ark studio with a number of key Biblical quotations on their minds. What resulted is one of the greatest roots reggae albums ever: a righteous skank through groves of Old Testament theology, underpinned by Scratch's trademark spooky shuffle and saturated with enough reverb to moisten the most dessicated palate. Listen out for cosmic moos, scrunching rowlocks and - flump! - the greatest lo-tech bass drum sound of all time. Available now for the first time on disque compacte, with five additional tracks from the vaults and Blood & Fire's fabled packaging overkill. Yum.

Heart of the Congos (Blood & Fire label)

WATCH Burnt by the Sun



There's a lot of white in Burnt by the Sun. White lace and long-fringed shawls; braids woven prettily with white ribbons, and the villain is a cad with a cable-knit cricket sweater. But this handsome film about welloff people is much too boisterous and badly behaved to be a British period-piece. It unfolds during a single long summer's day but this is one of those Northern summers with a hint of melancholy. The year is 1936 and we're in Russia. The film adopts a child's eye view of the approaching atrocities of Stalinism, but anyone expecting unleavened angst or sentiment will be amazed by the drolf humour in this generous, high-spirited film which most rhapsodic reviewers described glowingly as Chekhovian. It also won the Best Foreign Film Oscar and the Cannes Special Jury Prize.

£15.99 and available to rent

WIN Theatre tickets and other prizes



Today is the 15th birthday of the Half Price Ticket Booth, a mecca for theatrical bargainhunters who nab top-price tickets to West End shows at half price. To celebrate, stars from the shows will be gathering at 12.30pm for the Birthday Fanfare, songs from the shows and everything from leaping out of cakes (very Singin' in the Rain) to distributing hundreds of prizes including theatre memorabilia, merchandise, meals and many more. Tickets to some of the best West End shows will be on sale at the usual 50 per cent discount (plus the handling fee of £2), and the day sees the launch of the Booth Bonus Card, a new scheme to encourage Londoners to use this invaluable institution. Can you afford to miss this opportunity to meet the cast of The Fields of Ambrosia, the hotty-anticipated "electric-chair musical" opening next week? Leicester Square, London WC2

JOIN Children's Birdwatch Weekend



Not everyone is miserable about the weather. The folks at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are rather excited because the cold weather across Europe should send some tremendously unlikely species into gardens across the land, from waxwings to Scandinavian arctic redpoles. These rare visitors fly over when food sources are scarce there. Children wanting to take part should (swaddled in scarves) watch their garden or local park for one hour this weekend and record the highest number of each species of bird seen at any one time. Birds that land on the ground or in trees and bushes should be counted, but not those flying overhead. Will the blue tit topple the starling from its number one spot? Will the song thrush make a corneback this year?

For free information pack and voting details, write to YOC Big Garden Birdwatch, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

VISIT-



EDITED BY DAVID BENEDICT

Have you ever sean a woman clipping tickets on a train? British Rail may well be an equal opportunities employer, but from govering announcements about leaves on the line to management wantings against privatisation to surfy guards telling you as fittle as possible, the image of the railways is overwhelmingly male. Thanks to "Oh! Mrs. Porter", the National Railway Museum exhibition, we now know that the first recorded worten written was a recorded worten. way Museum exploration, we now need the first recorded women workers were gateleed ers over 350 years ago. By the First World War, there were women porters, ticket collectors, cleaners and Armie Eva Martin was sworn inas the first woman special railway constable on 5 March 1917, but the first woman driver didn't begin work until 1981. The exhibition: is an entire social and political history. Not just for anoraks

National Railway Museum, Leeman Road, York YO2 421 (01904 621261)

Oooh, er, cripes

For Steve Coogan, a part in a children's movie; for Lee Evans, a lead in the new Bruce Willis thriller. As far as Hollywood is concerned, the bloke with the enormous dry-cleaning bills is Britain's hottest comic property. By Jim White

ne evening earlier this week, Lee Evans was finishing off a day's rehearsal for his all-new West End show in a hired room in Soho. He had just completed running through the punishing opening sequence in which he falls down a Busby Berkeleystyle flight of stairs, tumbles through a trap-door and ends up marooned under the stage, unable to communicate with his audience: and all in about 20 seconds. As he finished, awash with sweat, panting, he found himself confronted by the woman who had booked the room for the next session.

"She takes one look at me, and of course I'm all like, wired," says Evans, recalling the incident by performing a mime of a very wired person. "And she goes, 'Oh dear'. And I says 'What?" And she says, 'Oh dear, I'm sorry'. And I says 'What?' And she says, I'm not sure if I can be much use, you need professional help.' It turns out she's running a relaxation class there."

Anyone who has seen Lee Evans on stage would quickly conclude he is well beyond the reach of relaxation classes; limbs defying all known rules of skeletal construction; sweat washing from every pore; face gurning into the sort of pose your mother used to warn you about adopting in case the wind changed, he tumbles around in a Norman Wisdom cast-off suit in the sort of way that suggests major damage is inevitable. Relaxing it isn't: his is the kind of exhibition of clowning perfected by Buster Keaton, a physical tour de force that leaves his audience exhausted and him with one of the biggest dry cleaning bills in Essex.

There's this Greek bloke in Southend does my cleaning," Evans says. "At one point he refused to clean them: 'Sorry I no clean them anymo', Mr Lee.' Then he came up with this new formula to clean suits that have really had it, make them look fabulous again. And he did it by experimenting on my suits. I go through suits at a terrible rate. See, it's the sweat, it rots the

Just at the moment, worrying where is next suit is coming from problem for Lee Evans. In 1996 he will undertake the following: a solo standup (and fall-down) season in the West End, a one-hour special for ITV, a sixpart series for Channel 4 and a six-part series for NBC television in America. Oh, and two Hollywood movies, including one which starts filming in April, directed by Luc Besson and starring Bruce Willis. He is, in short, Britain's hottest comic property, facing the kind of career uptake, he says (adopting a Donald Sinden accent) "that many a thesp would give their right bollock for". Not bad, this, for a lad who when he left school could barely read.

Lee seems to be the comedy name of the moment. There's Lee Cornes, a stalwart of the London circuit; there's Lee Hurst, whose shining pate is the weekly butt, as it were, of Nick Hancock in BBC1's They Think It's All Over, and there's Lee Sharpe, presently something of a joke in Manchester United's midfield. But any suggestion that Evans is a Lee-come-lately is to ignore the long evening of graft that preceded his overnight success. Evans's dad, Dave, was a jobbing entertainer, who played piano, sax and drums on the club circuit in the Sixties and Seventies. Our Lee spent most of his childhood by night sitting in the car outside gigs with a shandy and a packet of crisps and by day flitting from school to school, pulling faces at the back of class in the vain hope of being accepted. When his parents finally settled down, in Southend, he was a teenager and virtually uneducated. So he took himself off to art college in Thurrock (in between getting married at 17 to Heather, who is still his wife), where he found outlet for the thing he was good at: music.

"I was the drummer in a band called the Forgotten Five. And that's what we were: forgotten, big time. We did our own stuff, played places like Shrimpers in Brentwood and the Esplanade Southend and we were crap. Our lead singer snapped at anything. His name was David Salmon. At gigs you'd be drumming away and suddenly you'd hear this 'Boinggg' and you'd turn round and Dave's guitar's wrapped round this bloke's head and the bloke's going 'I never said a thing'. And Dave's going 'You bloody did'. That was nightly. He's a postman now, Dave. He came to see us in Cardiff on the last tour. He could not believe it, there's 3,500 people in this hall and it blew him away. Afterwards he said: 'It's everything we dreamed of as kids. I just never thought, man. Not you Lee."

If Dave was surprised, even more astonished would be some of the people who witnessed Evans in his early days as a comedian. Driven by penury into trying his hand at everything (including a spell as assistant to Ted, the hotograph by Herbie Knott

spiritualist window dresser for a Southend department store), he spent most nights at talent contests in Essex pubs, doing gags like "My wife's so fat she ain't got measurements, she's got time zones.

"One time I got picked up by this small time agent." Evans recalls. 'You'd go great in Manchester, you would. You'd smash 'em,' he says. So he put me on this tour of Manchester, Bradford and Bolton working men's clubs. And go smash I did. I'd turn up on stage and the cry would go out: 'Kill went: 'You calling my wife easy?' Next edy routine.

'im'. These were clubs where the cabaret was booked for target practice. Take Liverpool. Liverpool's a comedy city and that was the trouble. I weren't funny. One night this bloke in the audience went 'Oi, come here'. And everyone in the club stopped and it went silent as I walked off the stage towards him. He says: 'You see the way it works here is; joke, punch-line, we laugh." Then his wife next to him went: Yeah, he's right; joke, punch-line, then we laugh. So I went: 'Easy, easy.' And he

thing he's got me on the floor with his hands round me throat going: 'You twat.' And everyone's going: 'ave 'im Bert, go 'head, eh, do 'im'. I only escaped because the manager got me out through the kitchens.'

Like everything he says, this anecdote is accompanied by a furious mime which ends with Evans clutching his own throat, choking while attempting to punch himself on the nose. He is not one to let an experience pass which can be later workshopped up into a com-

"I can't stop staring at people," he says. "I nearly got beat up at Heathrow last year, I was staring at this bloke and he goes: 'What you staring at.' I said 'No, no, no, I'm not.' But I was. And he went for me. He had this funny twist in his back, see.

And off he goes again, performing a frankly schizophrenic routine in which a man with a funny twist in his back struggling along with a couple of suitcases starts threatening himself: "What you staring at, I'm not. I'll do yah. I'm not. I'll have you. No, stop. Aaargh."

At the end of which, Evans collapses in high-pitched hysterics: "Hurururur.

Hurururur Hurururur Undaunted by his Liverpool mauling in the mid-Eighties, Evans decided to try his hand closer to his Southend

home, on the London pub circuit. "This was the time when to be a comedian there meant saying 'Thatcher' and everyone hissing," he says, "Well I used to come on, do my stuff, fall over and that, and you could see the audience just thinking: 'What the bloody hell...

From there, it was just a short step to the Edinburgh Festival, the summer feeding ground of the London circuit. An easy option, you would have thought, after the gruelling appren-

ticeship in Liverpool.
"No, it was difficult in its own way," he says. "You feel you don't belong, because you haven't got the brains. I always feel inadequate, whatever I do. I use that as a motivation, though. I think: how comes I'm not accepted."

After five years of summering in Edinburgh, he finally was accepted, winning the Perrier Award, the annual title for best new comedian which generally comes complete with a fat television contract.

"I couldn't believe I'd won it. I'd never won anything, ever, nothing. And I won it, I mean, it was... And he performs a mime of an ecstatic person in such a way that you believe it probably was like that for him.

The thing that really projected Lee Evans into the upper reaches, however, was his appearance last year in Peter Chelsom's film Funny Bones. A remarkable piece about the bastard off-spring of a great American standup finding himself adopted by a sad family of English end-of-pier comics, it was a cult hit in America. Everyone loved it," he says, "but

it kind of disappeared just as it was taking off. It doesn't matter to me. because everyone in the industry went and said [adopts a big film-producer style American accent] 'Let's sign the kid up for movies. You wanna do movies kid?' And then what happened was they present you script where you're lost in a desert with a dog and you have to look down at the dog and say: 'Will we ever get out of here Charlie?' And you go: 'I ain't doing that.' I turned loads down. About 10 I turned down. But, see, I didn't want to go too big. I'm still learning, the worse thing you can do is set yourself up as something and then die on your arse. When Luc Besson came along, bang, wallop, I'm there. I signed this thing not to say anything about it. But I tell you, Bruce Willis is in it. And the reason I'm doing it is: I'll learn. Next to him, you know, he'll be all [adopts a big Willis-like accent] Don't put the camera on me there buddy, the light's bad." And I'll be all 'Oooh, er, cripes, so that's how to do it'." "To tell you the truth," he adds, "my

pants are full. Up to the brim. That's the way I am. It's like this live show. I've sunk a lot of money into it - eek - I mean I earnt a bit of money last year, what's it for? I don't drink, I don't bird it, so I've decided to spend it on the show." And spend he has: on props like a

piano with a mind of its own, or a set of spinning plates which rotate in slow motion to facilitate a typically surreal sketch about, well, a slowmotion circus plate-spinner. "See, I'm terrified of failing. It's the

West End, I'm terrified of not giving them enough. I'm a bit paranoid about that. It's my biggest drawback, that, I waste a lot of time and money." After he has concluded a whole performance of a photo session, in which

he pulls a thousand faces and strikes a hundred rubber-limbed poses and leaves his audience of two damp with laughing. Evans heads back to his tiny little Soho office.

Walking through Soho with Lee Evans takes a bit of time, what with all the conversations he has with people, the little impromptu performances he gives and the amount of laughing he does. Others with faces made famous by the telly must get stopped by their public, but the difference with Lee Evans is, it's him doing the stopping. "All right mate, how you doing?" he asks a rather bemused youth in a Russian hat before shaking him by the hand; "Fanks mate, appreciate it," he says to a business man who let him pass through a narrow bit of the pavement; and "Ere that's a fantastic laugh, do it again, go on, go on," he says to a gig-gly teenage girl, who duly obliges by giggling uncontrollably.

That's lovely, that is," he says as he

walks on. "What a smashing laugh, eh?"

At the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1 5 Feb-16 Mar Booking: 0171-494 5048

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Emporio Armani: T-shirt £35, brief £17.50 Perhaps a bit overpriced for cotton underwear, but these are quality garments with a designer label thrown in. Available in small, medium, large. From Armani stores; enquiries on 0171-581 8009



Knickerbox: cream chemise, £17.99 This viscose/cotton ribbed shift may not be practical as an undergarment but would be great for sleeping in. From Knickerbox branches nationwide. Enquiries on 0171-284 1744

John Smedley: top, £21, boxer £27 Luxurious twosome in Sea Island cotton. Big knickers seem to be a key trend in underwear; these ones are ribbed at the waistband for an extra smooth look. From Simpsons of Piccadilly, London W1. or mail order on 01629 534 331

Muji: camisole three-pack £14.50, with matching high-cut briefs £9.50 Outstanding value from the Japanese shop that gives us useful, stylish basics. Many a girl can be seen dancing the night away in these vests. From Muji stores; enquiries: 0171-494 1197

Knickerbox: black vest with lace trim £12.99, pants £9.99 Again these "hot pant" style knickers are very popular. They're also soft and durable. From branches of Knickerbox

> Stylist: Charlie Harrington Photographer: Andrew Lamb



ichael Cripps breathed heavily on to the brass knobs at the base of the large Victorian cast-iron bed with its ornate semicircular headboard. "This one's not for sale," he declared.

Mr Cripps, who runs Once Upon a Time, has some 400 antique brass and iron bedsteads in 4,000 sq ft of old farm buildings in the village of Ripley, Surrey. He treats them like an extended family. "I put a high price on my favourite beds in the hope that they won't sell," he said
"That way, I gain the pleasure of
viewing them daily for a few years."

One of his favourites is an allbrass monolith, made in 1872 at the Birmingham factory of James Schoolbred and Co, retailers of Tottenham Court Road London - a company that eventually became price tag is £4,750. It has been in the of my customers don't look at it this showroom a year.

The problem is that many of the and on which we have worked very antique metal bedstead and are prehard, often don't sell, while the unrenovated ones outside sell well," Mr Cripps said.

He explained that customers According to Mr Cripps, the beds "I used to have misgivings, but we would rather come and choose are virtually all different. "Nearly all only find one 5ft bed to every 200

specimens lying out in the cold.
"It's rather like visiting a dog's home. Customers like to select a really down-at-heel one and then see what we can do to bring it roaring back into life." Mr Cripps has devoted the last 18 years of his life to rescuing antique piles of rust and selling them for an average of £1,000-£1,200 for a fully-restored

Victorian cast-iron model. He is one of half a dozen or so specialist restorers of Georgian, bedsteads. Companies like Once Upon a Time report steady sales over the past few years, with no more dips due to the recession than any other retailer might expect.

However, restorers believe the supply is drying up, meaning prices will inevitably rise and make bedsteads purchased now a good invest-Maples. Fully restored, the bed's ment for the future. "The majority "They are often young people who

a divan with a headboard."

designs, so there is a huge variety if you know where to look. The quality of the originals is usually so high that they come up beautifully especially when they are taken back to the original metal and burnished.

"The heyday of manufacturing was around the onset of the Crimean War in 1854, when Florence Nightingale focused the eyes of the nation on health issues as Victorian and Edwardian antique never before. Metal bedsteads, considered more healthy than the traditional rosewood and mahogany versions, rapidly found their ways into hospitals and schools. Before long, the general mass of the pop-

tions are utterly feeble.

ulation made the change." The other usual requirement from customers is that the bed should be "stretched". This means extending it from its likely 4ft 6ins way, however," Mr Cripps said. modern tastes. The usual means of regarded by some today. But the doing this is by inserting extra dec-simple ones were in many ways the beds inside that we do want to sell have set their hearts on a genuine orative pieces within the additional iron or steel bars. It is a practice pared to save up for a couple of frowned upon in some sections of more often thrown away." years for something different from the trade because it means the bed is no longer authentic.

our way," said Mr Cripps. "Extending beds helps to keep prices down

and gives old beds a new life." Most of the old bedsteads that end up in workshops come in via "runners" in the antique trade, who By comparison, modern reproducquite often bring them from Ireland. or from Spain, Portugal and Morocco, where modern divan beds are slowly replacing the metal ones.

According to Jonathan Tebbs, who runs A Barn Full of Brass Beds in Lincolnshire, more than 90 per cent of them were originally made in Birmingham.

"By the 1870s, it is said 6,000 brass and iron bedsteads were being produced, vast numbers of which were exported," he said. They were not only made for the well-to-do, with pearl inlays, faceted mirrors, scroll work and superior castings, but also for the ordinary folk.

"In Victorian times, the bed was width to the Sft more acceptable to almost a status symbol, like cars are most elegant, and are often rarer, as they were the models that were

While Mr Cripps either sells his beds in their original burnished and lacquered bare metal form, or paints them black, Mr Tebbs spefrom the sad-looking unrestored manufacturers had their own or so 4ft 6ins or 4ft beds that come cialises in painting his beds in the

range of National Trust colours mainly French grey, sugar-bag blue. Cork green, fox red and Sudbury yellow. Most of his beds are restored to order, the customer coming to

him to choose first. Generally, my clients, who come from throughout the country, pre-fer this approach," he said. "I tell them I buy rust and I sell romance."

> Once Upon a Time, The Green Ripley, Surrey (01483 211330). A Barn Full of Brass Beds, Abbey House, Eastfield Road, Louth, Lines (01507 603173). Manor Farm Antiques, Oxfordshire (01865 300303). Bed Bazaar, Framlingham Suffolk (01728 723756). The Antique Bedstead Company, Chelmsford (01245 471137). Morpheus, Elgin House Antiques, Tetbury (01666 504068). Seventh Heaven, Clwyd (01691 777622).

Reproduction brass and iron bedsteads available from: Enchanted House, St Blazey, Comwall (01726 812213). Deotich Designs Ltd, London (0181-687 0867) sell their reproduction metal bedsteads throughout the UK.



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bazaar

Bestsellers: Top 10 at Lakeland Plastics

From a small company selling plastic boxes, Lakeland Plastics has evolved into a mail-order phenomenon. Much of its success is based on the fact that many of the ideas for new gadgets are supplied by its customers. One of these is the new mini mix, a tool for whisking one egg white; another is the nondrip honey spoon, which perches on the jar rim. The success of the wonder whisks and Mermaid roasting tins is

explained by their starring roles on BBC2's Delia Smith's Winter Collection. Call 015394 88100 for a catalogue.

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1 Mini mix	
2 Honey spoon	£2.95
3 Cast-iron veg shredder . £	
4 Spice tower£	
5 Artificial azalea bush	
6 Wonder whisk£2.95	(two)
7 Mermaid roasting tin£	23.95
8 Dishwasher fragrance	£2.35
9 Magic Glove	£4.95
10 Mary Berry flour sifter	£1.99

Good thing

Heart apron, £9.95

Foody partners will probably appreciate this red-check heart apron on Valentines Day more than a giftwrapped box of rum truffles. It's made from 100 per cent cotton, is generously sized and reasonably priced. Other

Divertimenti presents for favourite cooks include heart-shaped cake tins (£6.95 a pair), china coeur à la crème moulds (£19.95) and a pretty Early American heart-pattern ceramic shortbread mould (£19.95). Add £3.95 p&p. Order a.s.a.p. (for 14 Feb) from the Divertimenti catalogue (0171-386 9911), or try the shops at 45-47 Wigmore Street, London W1 and 139 Fulham Road, SW3.

Mad thing

Click phone, £29.95

You don't have a mobile phone but would like your friends to think you have. What do you do? Tura to the Innovations catalogue and order this cunning home phone that looks like a

mobile". To use, pull out the dummy aerial, and flip open the mouthpiece. To close, push back the aerial, click shut and put down anywhere. The only drawback is the subtle giveaway of a curly flex, which even if it is six metres long ("to let you roam") won't fool anyone. From Innovations: 01793 514666.

Checkout Oxfam

Oxfam, Queen's Road, Bristol (0117 929 4890)

What is it?: An Oxfam shop, but without the racks of lurex jumpers and outgrown tweed jackets that most people shop at Oxfam for. This shop is one of three Oxfam shops which stock only Oxfam's Fair Trade products - intended to benefit the people who actually make the products by giving them a fair price (the others are in Chester and Chichester).

Stock: Best sellers are the more useful or consumable items such as the delicious Café Direct coffee, grown by Latin-American and African co-operatives, the Fair Trade chocolate, made in Switzerland but from fairly traded beans and sugar, or the recycled Oxfam writing paper. Irritatingly, not all the goods are marked with information on where and how they're made.

Do buy: Bolivian dried bananas (£1.40 a pack), Café Direct coffee (£2.49 a jar), Indian doormat (£7.45), Guava jam from Burkina Faso (£1.65), laundry basket from the Philippines (£18.75)

Don't buy: The expensive knick-knacks that sell well at Christmas but gather dust the rest of the year, ie. flowery blue porcelain pigs from Thailand, carved wooden tiger masks

collecting • antiques, galleries

FINE ANTIQUE DINING TABLES

A good selection of 19th century mahogany extending dining tables always in Will Farm Antiques Leekhampstead,

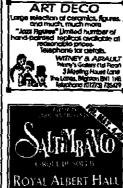
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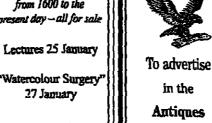


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Amy Beeton



There are spates of bobbin faking. Horse bones are lathe-turned, carved, then

manure to artificially

Dre-war televisions, highly collectable, are doubling in price every couple of sales at Phillips Bayswater. Fewer survive than Stradivarius violins. At one of Phillips's thrice-yearly "mechanical music" sales last September. a table-top HMV set made in 1936 - the first year of public broadcasting - fetched £2,875. In Tuesday's sale (12 noon) a 1936 Marconi 706 televisionradio, with a screen the size of a tennis ball and a walnut cabinet is estimated at £2,000-£2,200. There are commission bids in excess of that and it will

probably fetch over £3,500. Phillips, with a virtual monopoly on the vintage telly market, gets the highest prices. The result is that artful collectors have been buying sets at Sotheby's and Christie's South Kensington for a song and reselling them for nearly three times as much at Phillips. After a 1936 floor-standing HMV had been sold for £990 at Christie's South Kensington last year, an estimate of £2,500-£3,500 on a They feature in Wright of 1937 Marconi 702 with mirror lid. bought for £990 at Sotheby's last October. But the buyer prefers to hang on to it. Some post-war tellies are going down in price. A 20in

white Keracolour with classic globe shape (made in 1970. inspired by the 1969 moon landing) was worth £500 at auction two years ago when Michael Bennett-Levy's guidebook Historic Televisions ignited the telly-collecting craze. The specimen in this week's sale is estimated at only £150-£250 because every serious collector now has one. Meanwhile, the supply of pre-war models has all but dried up. Phillips sold 15 in 1993, 10 in 1994 and only one last year. Will this week's be the first and last for 1996?

The nearest thing to a Keracolour in the homes of 18th and 19th century lacemakers was a 10in high water-filled spherical glass vase, back-lit by uncannily similar set turned up a glass oil lamp of about the at Phillips's May sale, letching same size, that focussed light £2,645. Phillips has given an onto their meticulous work.

Derby's wondrously illuminated paintings - but were not bright enough to prevent many lacemakers going blind. Two lace-makers lamps with hollow stem and glass globe are estimated at £100-£150 each in Phillips's sale of textiles, lace and period costume, Tuesday (11am). Only one or two a year crop up at auction. The sale has plenty of pencil-like turned bone and wood lace-making bobbins decorated with spangles at one end, many carved with names and mis-spelt lines such as "I long to be mared". Lots of 24 are estimated at £150-£200. From time to time, there are spaces of bobbin faking in the antique world. Horse bones are lathe-turned, carved, then buried in manure to artificially age them. Phillips's Anne Marie Benson spots them because their incisions, made with modem tools, are too sharp, and because they lack signs of wear and the slightly glossy patina caused by perspiration.



Planet kitsch

The Sixties Space Age promised a world of silver suits and inflatable furniture. But it's only now that the high street can deliver. By Jonathan Glancey

pace is in danger of becoming a black hole, or a hubble-bubble, in the memory of the media. Having just listened to Radio 4's Beam Me Up Scotty, "a nostalgic zoom through Space Age pop culture", I find myself, if not stunned, fazed, and out of time.

Beam Mc Up Scotty tells me (a child of the Sixties) that I was brought up in age when we all had inflatable plastic chairs, wore disposable paper underwear, and boasted a Lava lamp in every room. Yet, for those of us who lacked central heating, fitted carpets and refrigerators (our first fridge came in 1967), such novelties were the stuff of dreams and of Tommy Robert's dreamy "Mr Freedom", shop-of-the-future in the King's Road. I bought my first Lava lamp last year.

I was clearly not a part of Radio 4's Space Age, but then few of us were. As children we waited impatiently for next week's Eagle to see Dan Dare ("pilot of the future") bat-tling with the Mekon. We thrilled to Soyuz and Saturn rocket launches taking Reds and Yanks with crew cuts and the Right Stuff towards the moon, yet the world we inhabited was more steam age than Space Age.

We knew about sputniks, looked forward to sherbert and rice-paper "flying saucers" on the walk back from Mass on Sunday, craved Lyon's Maid Zoom ice-lollies, could hum the tinny tune of "Telstar" by the Tornados, and wanted to be Daleks; yet the Comet was still a steam-hauled flyer from Euston to Manchester, and Evening Star the last steam locomotive built by British Railways (Swindon, 1960). A Constellation was one of the triple-finned American turbo-props that arched over the tree-tops. Mars was a bar of "thick, thick" chocolate (price: 6d), and Milky Way the sweet you could eat between meals (3d).

My first space rocket (6s 11d) was launched with the aid of a catapult. On a good day it could penetrate the playgroundo-sphere, commencing its parachuteassisted descent to Earth at about 100ft. It was a lot less sophisticated than my Mamod SE2A steam engine, which, powered by meths and water, could (when attached to the right cogs and eccentrics) polish a set of table knives within the hour, whilst

intoxicating guinea-pigs and terrifying cats. Equally, the veteran transformer that controlled my model trains was much more sophisticated than the miniature RAF Javelin, Hunter and Lightning fighters (as Space Age of the Sixties. advertised in Eagle) that, filled with noxious gas, rocketed across the garden so much faster (and more dangerously) than defunct

Airfix Lancasters stuffed with flaming. paraffin-soaked rags and catapulted from bedroom windows.

There was more fun to be had from making walkie-talkies from two tin cans and a length of string than from a smug classmate's utterly wet and weedy Dan Dare 2way Space Radio. And, instead of watching Fireball XL5 or Lost in Space on the blackand-white telly, a much better way to tour the cosmos was to climb a tall tree, and, from its swaying cockpit, follow the vapour trails of military jets reaching for the stratosphere from nearby air bases.

Perhaps the best way of all was to snuggle under dogs and bedclothes on pipe-cracking nights, kitted-out with hot water bottle, torch and The Swift Book of Space Flight, and dream one's seven-year-old self to Andromeda and galaxies beyond.

Girls' (chiz chiz) dreams of space had little to do with disintegrator guns and knowing the top speed of an X-15 rocket plane; girls dreamt of dressing up and pirouetting into Namia and Oz-like worlds, or variations on the mysterious island where Sandra, a kidnapped orphan, has been taken to train in a secret ballet school (a tale told weekly in

Teenage sisters brought the Space Age closer to home with giggly discussions turning on the "phworr" factor of Apollo astronauts. Neil Armstrong's giant leap for mankind seemed rather less important to womankind (now students of "Cathy and Claire's Problem Page" in Jackie) than whether he was cuter than "Buzz" Aldrin.

By then they had developed a crush on Captain Kirk or Mr Spock (having abandoned Napoleon Solo and Ilya Kuryakin). To be fair, the micro-mini-skirted Lieutenant Uhuru was beginning to exert a strange attraction on us boys (enuff said).

Girls were the final frontier for Space cadets, but, sufferin' satellites (as Dan Dare would have said), all that embarrassing stuff was aeons in the future. Until then, space would remain the stuff of catapults, burnt fingers, electric shocks, scorching jets of superheated steam and starry yarns read under blankets. Today, the Sixties' Spage Age has caught up with the world of the Jupiter probe and Hubble space-camera: inflatable furniture, silver dresses, plastic hipsters, rocketstyle Lava lamps have only now landed in the high street, 30 years after the late, great

> "Beam Me Up Scotty", presented by John Peel: 10am R4, Friday 2 Feb



A life in the shift of

Navin Patel owner of Raj's Newsagents in Ashford, Kent



Navin Patel, 40. and his father, bought t. newsagent/off-licence in 1971, having been e pelled from Uganda by Idi Amin. He is mu-ried and has two daughters, 12 and nine, at a six-year-old son. They live above the sho

"I get up at 5am. We are Hindus and ever one has to have a bath and pray befo breakfast. I pray for about 15 minutes. N wife does half an hour, and my mother : hour. Dad retired in August, and for the la two he's been raising money for the new Hi du temple in Neasden. It was Dad who fir saw the shop advertised in Dalton's Wee ly. This is a very good shop, he said. In fo or five years we will make our money back He was right. It's been a gold mine. I dive three cars. One is a Mercedes.

"In the Eighties we bought a nursit home, too. My wife works there. Sometim she works until 4am and still gets up at 6a to cook for us. It's in our genes: work, wor work. I sometimes think Indian people a mad. I have a boy who works for me - i is a good boy, but he doesn't like workin Like some English people, he thinks if he worked a 40-hour week he's worked ve hard. I work about 100 hours a week.

"At 5.30am my head boy arrives and v go into the garage and count out the pape for the paper rounds. The shop opens 6am. There are always people waiting.

"I have breakfast at 8am - two toast ar some Bombay mix. I eat Indian food, ncrisps and fizzy drinks like my children. was one of the first Indian men in Ashfor Sometimes people call us "Paki bastards but not often. Bricks have been chucke through the window. But it's not person: We have shutters now.

"At 8,15am the school kids come in ar spend their dinner money. The biggest pro lem with them is fags. We've clampe down a lot because I've been told off by the police and the school. My children go to private school. I want them to do better the me. One daughter wants to be a doctor, ti other a skin specialist. Traditionally the sc takes over the father's business, but I wa him to do something better. My wife wor let them slack about. She says: Look he hard your father works. I expect you to c the same.'

"From 9am I run the post office and tl other staff run the shop. I have lunch 1pm - vegetables and rice - and am bac in the post office at 1.30pm. I break at 5p so we can eat our main meal together, at then work until the shop shuts at 7.30pr In the evenings I do my paper work. I' never in bed before 11pm. My only brea is on Sunday afternoons when I play wi the children. We go ice skating or pla

"I must be getting old because I find the long hours hard. We don't need any mo money and I am thinking that if I had a ma ager, I could take life easy. But what elcould I do? This is all I know."

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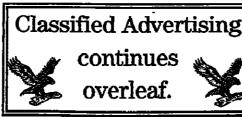


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Meet the family

The man behind the Rock Family Trees is back. This time he's charting 40 years of Manchester United. By James Rampton

h no," I hear you say, "not another Manchester United merchandising opportunity. I've already got the Ryan Giggs duvet-cover and the memoirs of the Stretford End turnstile operator. What do I need a Manchester United Family Tree for?" The answer is: because it is a fascinating, phenomenally painstaking piece of work, detailed enough to satisfy the most stats-obsessed fan.

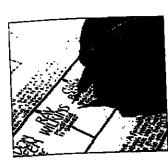
The two Family Tree posters, covering the periods 1955-75 and 1975-95, contain 8,000 words apiece – enough to fill a slim volume. The Trees give a season-byseason breakdown of comings and goings, and the team's form, in a spaghetti-junction inter-spersed with wodges of scrupu-lously neat text. They are the sporting cousin of Pete Frame's Rock Family Trees which have charted the sometimes Byzantine interconnections between rock bands over the past 25 years.

The information for the United Family Tree was largely

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supplied by Jim White, (featurewriter on this paper and author of Are You Watching, Liverpool?) and checked by the Newsnight reporter and Jeffrey Archer biographer. Michael Crick ("the world's greatest expert on

United", according to Frame). Frame then spent three months on top of an eight-by-four plywood drawing-board. In his words, he was perched like a gnome on a cushion, surrounded by scraps of paper, reference-books, dictionaries, pens, rulers and bottles of liquid paper. Only I know where everything is. When I die, someone's going to have a hell of a job sorting everything out."

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Warm Heart

Now 53, Frame first got the idea for Family Trees when at the end of the Sixties he dropped out of his respectable job as a buildings surveyor for the Prudential and founded his own underground rock magazine called ZigZag. "In 1972 I'd done a long interview with Al Cooper, who had started Blood, Sweat and Tears," he recalls, speaking from his 16th-century thatched cottage near Aylesbury. "I was trying to explain in an article how he had moved from one band to another, when at that moment it dawned on me that if I drew it out in a family tree it would be so much clearer." A cult was born, and over the next quarter-century hundreds of Frame's works of art appeared

in Sounds, NME, Melody Maker and Rolling Stone. They culmi-nated last year in a BBC2 series Rock Family Trees. It may be painstaking, but the Family Tree is not an anoraky thing, says Frame. "Usually the people who say that are those who haven't read it. I know train-

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spotters and, believe me, I'm not in their ball-game. It's got a lot of information, but if you actually read it, it's written with a lightness. It's amusing and full of anecdotes."

It is true that in among the morass of facts, many gems shine out. Take the Family Tree's comments on United's signing of Bryan Robson in 1981: "For the

next 12 years he never put a foot wrong for United; the only mistake he made was the curly perm he sported the day he signed." Frame's next projects are Fam-

ily Trees of the England team since 1966 and his beloved Luton Town FC - "the soot in the atmosphere always created a fog at Luton, but they were my very first heroes". Frame has thought about turn-

ing himself into a (thatched) cottage industry. "I'd love to have a team of monks working to my instruction while I sit and have a joint," he says. "But it doesn't work like that, because my style is so idiosyncratic. If I had a team replicating my work, it'd become too train-spotterish. I interviewed Leonard Cohen once and he told me he's taken some territory

in his field and he tries to maintain it. I feel the same.

The Manchester United Family Trees are available from BDP, 50 Margaret St. London W1N 8LS. Each poster (1955-75 or 1975-95) costs £10 plus £1.50 p&p. Credit card orders on 0171-636 1665.

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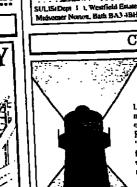
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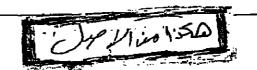
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How a modest Italian ornament became a priceless masterpiece by Michelangelo

This week, if you believe Dr ling of the lion's paw... surely this tant question, as Dr Penny has the world recovered a great treasure. The circumstances were delightfully cinematic. For years the gloomy lobby of a Fifth Avenue mansion has contained a small stone sculpture of a cupid with a quiver in the shape of a lion's paw. The object was in plain view but so familiar that it was, effectively, invisible. One day, though, as Dr Brandt was passing, the lobby had been illuminated for some special event. Peering through the glass, she saw the sculpture brightly lit for the first time. One can imagine the scene as an Annunciation, a beam of golden light bearing down on the sacred object. Dr Brandt's heart beat a little faster. The contrapposto of the back, the ughtness of the curls, the model-

Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt, was no humble piece of garden statuary. After further research, and with much trepidation, she advanced the theory that the work was actually by Michelangelo. New York had lost a modest Italian ornament and gained a priceless work of art - a brilliant trade by anybody's standards.

Dr Brandt has found support among other art historians. Our own Dr Nicholas Penny, of the National Gallery, weighed in on her side, telling the New York Times that "The more one looks at it, the more it grows on one, not only as a remarkable work of art but something that makes sense as a work of Michelangelo."

What exactly does it mean, though, to "make sense" as a work of Michelangelo? It is an impor-

good reason to know, because the last art-world fuss over the authenticity of a Michelangelo came much closer to home. It arose over the reattribution - the promo-tion, in effect - of the National Gallery's Entombraent of Christ. The case against was put by an enraged Professor James Beck: "To make the Entombment a Michelangelo", he said, "dimin-ishes the creativity of Michelangelo. It means placing a third-rate work at his doorstep. That is a violation of his integrity." (To have 20th-century academics presume what your integrity consists of

lation still, but let that pass.) Integrity is important to us, and has been for centuries. The qual-

might be considered a larger vio-



rather more pertinent to these questions of artistic provenance -'authenticity". And here we arrive at a paradox, in its larger moral sense, authenticity (as applied to people or their behaviour) contains some notion of intransigence or resistance to the smoothing impulse of society. We detect authenticity in humans by those form to pattern. In art history, however, quite the opposite is

sense" depends on an essentially artistic finish if it cannot come up with incontrovertible paperwork. what's more, a signature which has several more signatures to vouch for its authenticity), we rely on something more like plausibility or coherence.

In Sincerity and Authenticity, Lionel Trilling wrote that "the work of art is itself authentic by reason of its entire self-definition: it is understood to exist wholly by the laws of its own being, which include the right to embody painful, ignoble, or socially unac-ceptable subject-matters. Similarly the artist seeks his personal features in them which don't con- authenticity in his entire autonomousness." This may not be how Michelangelo thought of the ity has another name, too, and one true. Authenticity that "makes matter (Trilling is speaking specif-

angelo, in his isolated and heroic creativity. And as he isn't around to clarify exactly what it is to be authentically Michelangelesque. we must do the work for him. Dead people don't have the luxury

of "autonomousness". The result can be decidedly odd the careful creation of a new being, incapable of error or even the labour of false starts. It has happened to other artists, too. In the past 90 years, we have lost more than half the Rembrandts that were in existence at the beginning of the century; not through some inconceivable carelessness on the part of curators, but because the Rembrandt Research Project has doggedly hacked away

ically of a 19-century habit of at what it considers to be false mind), but it is, to some degree, how we now think of Michel-mostly on stylistic considerations mostly on stylistic considerations (just as Dr Brandt did with her Michelangelo), effectively removing "lesser works" from the corpus. As they proceed, Rembrandt becomes a greater and greater artist and, in some respects at least, less and less humanly interesting.

Clearly the procedure works both ways - if a work of art is elevated to the corpus, it is honourbound to live up to its new estate. This sometimes takes diligence, as with the world's fresh scrutiny of the New York cupid. "The more one looks at it." Dr Penny said, "the more it grows on one." But would anyone have looked so hard or seen so much if that new and glamorous authenticity had never heen advanced?

Charmer, charlatan, patron, genius

Diaghilev was the century's most flamboyant fixer and artistic visionary. A major new exhibition tries to get the measure of the man. By Paul Taylor

ergei Pavlovich Diaghilev (1872-1929) had a badger-stripe of white in his dark hair, giving him a look of Susan Sontag and Bride of Frankenstein. In the por-traits of the great Russian impresario that you find dotted around "Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes" at the Barbican, this feature (which earnt him the nickname "Chinchilla") is somewhat easier to spot than evidence of the formidable charm to which his contemporaries made ritual reference.

"He could charm a dead man to life," wrote the English showman, CB Cochran, and that can't be much of an exaggeration, given the range of Diaghilev agnetism and persuasive powers. By the tin re founded the Ballets Russes in 1911, he h already organised the 1906 exhibition of Rus art at the Paris Salon d'Automne, the 190\ vacerts of Russian Chaliapin, Rachmusic (which introdu) maninov and Rimsky-K kov to Paris audiences), and treated the to the glories of Boris Godunov. In the two secons of 1909 and 1910 he had gone on - despite the curious fact that he was initially no enthusiast of the form - to make ballet the vehicle for his vision of the Gesamtkunstwerk, a synthesis of music, painting and movement in the totally integrated work of art. In Petrushka (1910), the dance drama about the puppet with human feelings, he had supervised the supreme example of what he was aiming for. The circle of talent with which he had surrounded himself was already such a rollcall of the rarefied that any future film version of his life would be bound to run into acute dialogue difficulties: "Could you just hold on a sec, Benois, old chap, I've got Stravinsky on the other line. Apparently, Nijinsky's throwing a wobbly. No, I said Nij-insky, not Strav. Well, bang goes brunch with Proust."

There's a caricature by Pavel Shcherbov which shows Diaghilev on a stool in homely skirt and blouse literally milking Princess Tenisheva. his World of Art sponsor, who is represented as a cow. To finance his projects, the impresario was continually forced to make overtures to wealthy, titled types. Diaghilev's seasons tended to be critical smashes but financial failures. The Firebird was no Starlight Express, a gleaming example of that process in reverse.

The point about the cartoon, though, is that it's a rare instance of Diaghilev, the consummate operator, depicted in activity. The vast bulk of the images here - including the famous Leon Bakst portrait of him with his old nanny in the background - give you scant inkling of the man's drive and dynamism. They recall, rather, Osbert Sitwell's marvellous description of him in Great Morning: "When he was preoccupied, his massive head, with a nose of the flat, not aquiline, Russian type, had something of a Velasquez dwarf's air of solemn pathos and listless fatality."

But what of the theatre he masterminded? Does the energy of that come across? It would indeed be an ironic fate for productions that strove to bring the arts into a vital synthesis, if, in separating out their elements, an exhibition were to let the life leak away. The current show has tried to guard against this by employing the designer, Paul Dart, to throw a theatrical atmosphere round the exhibits. This works best in the extraordinary installation on the lower level where - in an effect that is like looking down a long, magical tunnel of fairy-tale grottoes - a succession of Bakst and Benois stage designs (to Cleopatre, Petrushka, Scheherezade etc) open out on to each other, pulling you in to examine the relevant objects (costumes, posters, props, statuary) housed in the spaces between. With their "oriental" subject matter, exotic decor and revolutionary palette of overwhelmingly rich, sensual shades, these designs would make a stage buzz with vibrancy before

a dancer stepped anywhere near it. Compared to the drama of the designs – notably Bakst's costume-design paintings which demonstrate his phenomenal knack of presenting dress as the intoxicated extension of emotion rather than as just so much coloured fabric - the actual costumes in their glass cases seem a little faded and inert. Not that there is any music for them to come alive to, since, although these ballets boast scores by Stravinsky, Debussy, Ravel, Rimsky-Korsakov et al, a decision has been taken that the exhibition is

best perambulated in silence. There's a puzzling omission among the costumes. "Nijinsky appeared at the Imperial Theatre in the tightest tights anyone had ever seen [in fact, an athletic support padded with handkerchiefs and little else]," remarked Stravinsky of the dancer's 1911 performance as Albrecht in Giselle, where he refused to appear before the audience in the discreet. Renaissance-style outfit Benois had designed. You could argue that the bandage-like substitute he insisted on sporting is one of the more pivotal



undergarments in cultural history, since it led to Nijinsky's dismissal from the Imperial Theatre and to the creation of the Ballets Russes. Diaghilev, who had hitherto merely borrowed Russian artists for his Paris seasons, now exploited the situation to found his own independent company and to bind his lover Nijinsky ever closer to him. More than a storm in a truss, then, and I think that, assuming it hasn't been pawed to bits, we could have been granted a gawp at this historic object.

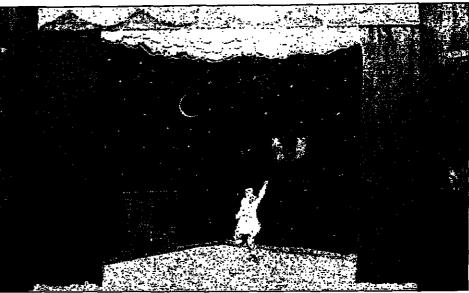
The cut-off point for the exhibition is the outbreak of the First World War, with Diaghilev and his troupe stranded away from their homeland and scattered in Europe and the US. Ahead of the impresario lay a further 15 years of achievement and the decision to look to the European avant-garde (notably the Cubism of Picasso) rather than back to Russia for design inspiration. But renewed interest in Diaghilev in his post-Communist homeland has meant that pre-Revolutionary items can now be brought over for the first time, and the exhibition is keen to emphasise the enduring Russian influences on his art up to that date.

The value of the early sections is that they establish a sense of the culture from which Diaghilev sprang, introducing you to such notable forerunners of the impresario as Savva Mamontov (1841-1918), a wealthy industrial-

ist and patron who founded an arts colony on the Abramtsevo estate, a successful ceramics workshop and a loss-making but highly esteemed private opera company in Moscow. While the scenic department of the Imperial Theatre churned out standard-issue glades, lakes and palaces, Mamontov's company saw design as a painterly challenge and an opportunity to revitalise national culture. His was an example, you feel, not wasted on Diaghilev.

It's to be hoped that when the promised exhibition of the remaining years is mounted, it will be as accommodating to the complicated legacy of Diaghilev, whose company promptly folded on his death in 1929, as this show has been to what shaped him and to the St Petersburg intellectual circles in which he made his first impact. "I am, first, a great charlatan, though with dash," he had written to his stepmother in 1895, "second, a great charmer, third, cheeky, fourth, a person with a lot of logic and few principles, and fifth, someone afflicted, it seems, with a complete absence of talent. I think I've found my true vocation: to be a patron of the arts. For that I have everything I need except the money. Mais ça viendra..." He could have added that, sixth, he was clairvoyant.

> 'Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes' is at the Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) to 14 April





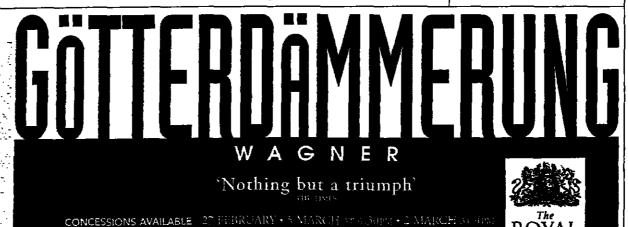


Clockwise from left: 'Portrait of Diaghile with his nanny by Leon Bakst (State Russian Museum, St Petersburg); Alexandre Benois' set design for Petrushka's room in 'Petrushka', 1911 (Bolshoi Theatre Museum, Moscow); and Bakst's costume designs for the Golden Negro (right) and an Odatisque (left) in 'Schéhérazade', 1910 (Private collection)



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TELEVISION Paul Merton in... (ITV)

Jasper Rees propounds the novel theory that comedy is, in fact, the new opera

n Dead Funny, Terry Johnson's recent West End hit, four bores hold a wake for Benny Hill. The theory proposed by the play, and implied in the title, is that comedy cannot survive resuscitation. On the principle that an old joke is any joke told more than once. Johnson derides the anorak instinct to dig up classic sketches and parade them anew. It's in accordance with this theory that modern comedy has come to be known as the new rock'n'roll, sending forth brattish new stars and exciting trend-spotting arts pages to increase its quota of column inches.

Now Paul Menon in Galton and Simpson's ... has come along to test this theory. The project, in which Merton plays the parts originally written for Tony Hancock, proposes comedy as the new opera, with a fixed repertoire of classic libretti and arias.

Merton has already given the BBC his idiosyncratic PhD on vintage comedy, so this would appear to be the next logical step: a archeological dig for yesteryear's laughs, with Merton as chief shoveller. He is both well and ill equipped for the task. He knows the material backwards, but sometimes he might get more laughs if he said it backwards. Despite positioning himself as a keeper of the flame, he's also television's most accomplished improv comedian. Never very good at making other people's lines his own,

almost all his best work is done without a script. In other words, his generous instincts are not in doubt, but his ability to act is. He has a measure of Hancock's uppity menace but, with a volume control that goes no lower than nine, none of his pathos. It could easily be claimed that this is irrelevant, but if comedy even by writers as brilliant as Ray Galton and Alan Simpson is to have a shelf life, it needs to crase the memory of its premiere. Because he died before the days when every programme was kept for posterity, there is a bit of case to be made for modernising Hancock. In principle, though, it looks a heretical undertaking.

The first Hulf Hour for revival was Twelve Angry Men. in which Merton played the chief foreman who tries to persuade the jury of a plainly guilty criminal's innocence. The script itself is still in goodish nick ("Does Magna Carta mean anything to you? Did she die in vain?"), and the professional stereotypes on the fringes have not appreciably aged in 30 years. The only regrettable sections have been inserted to give it an updating tweak. References to Rumpole and public-utility fatcats are harmless enough, but the OJ Simpson joke was there simply for texture; an equivalently limp line wouldn't have sullied the text first time round.

Dead Funny, incidentally, quotes the last lines Galton and Simpson ever wrote for Hancock, in which he moans that after he's gone all he can expect is "a few daffodils in a jamjar". This venture will make his memory ever fonder. As for Galton and Simpson, it makes them the butt of

THEATRE Slaughter City, RSC Pit, London

Naomi Wallace's blood-stained account of American industrial relations offers large dollops of symbolism, but no slice of life. By Paul Taylor



Cod's co-workers, Brandon (Alexis Daniel) and Roach (Lisa Gaye Dixon), all victims of the Sansage Man

You can't accuse Naomi Wallace of malingering in the one milieu. Her last couple of plays, for example, have transported us on Gulf War flashbacks (In the Heart of America) and to a boarded-up London house during the Great Plague of 1665 (the excellent One Flea Spare). Slaughter City, now premiered in Ron Daniels's Pit production, deposits us in a US abattoir, designed to offer a symbolic microcosm of the pernicious relations between capital and labour. The set is as bloody as a butcher's apron. Carousels of realistic-looking carcasses swing by on hooks. Innards are rummaged out. Gristle is sliced from bone. These must have been testing times for any herbivores in the RSC's scenic and props department.

But though the setting of her plays may be varied, a strain of repetitiveness can now be detected. In In the Heart of America, the confused ghost of a Vietnamese woman searched for the murderer of her three-year-old daughter in a world where, after US action in Panama, Grenada and Operation Desert Storm, parallel postmortems were taking place. The implication, highly tendentious, was that all American wars are, at some level, the same; a repeat of the My Lai massacre.

Slaughter City applies that formula to the history of injustice, negligence and disaster in the field of American industrial relations. Here, the perplexed figure who wanders in from the past so as to point up the debatable theme of endless recurrence is Cod (a signally intense Olwen Foucre). Her mother, a turn of the century textile worker, had had to jump to her death from a fire but

managed to save Cod, still in the womb, by making a last-minute pact with the Sausage Man (Robert Langdon Lloyd).

With his grinder turning disgusting refuse into profit, this fig-ure emblematises capital, but he evidently has supernatural powers. The price of saving the child's life is that she become his "spark", to be sent wherever he chooses for ever. He seems to revel in Cod's resistance to him, "the labourer against my system! It's glorious, it's heroic. And we have all the time in the world..." To him, it's a game he thinks he can't lose; to her, it's like a recurring nightmare as, in male disguise, she's taken to be a witness-participant in one industrial horror after another.

Slaughter City ends with her breaking the cycle and taking effective action in the here and now. You may wonder, though, whether that inspirational close compensates for the drawbacks of giving the piece a cumbersome, far-fetched and confusing mythic element that raises more doubts than it resolves. Cod's co-workers are splendidly played by Lisa Gaye Dixon, Sophie Stanton and Alexis Daniel and there is, at times, despite an overdosing on meat metaphors, a hard-edged particularity in the writng. I'd have preferred to find out more about their lives instead of being shown the pattern of which they are allegedly part. And that pattern is simplistic. The boss (Linal Haft) has a pet which is the single last surviving snail of its kind. I bet you can't guess what happens to it and him. Well, talk about asking for it.

Barbican, London EC2, Booking: 0171-638 8891, in rep

CLASSICAL Emerson Quartet / Barbican

They brought Bartok to a boil last year, but Beethoven fell flat. By Robert Cowan

Poised beneath a warmly coloured backdrop, the Emerson Quartet made piquant music of Beethoven's D major String Quartet, Op 18 No 3. It was a taut affair, alert to every modulation, consistently incisive and elegantly articulated. Furthermore, the Quartet's instruments enhanced the effect, though Philip Setzer's Lupot sounded rather brighter in tone than Eugene Drucker's Stradivarius. Setzer led the first half, swapping to second fiddle after the interval (ie, for the first "Razumovsky" Quartet) although if any one member warranted special praise, it was cellist David Finckel, a strong player with a full, vibrant tone beautifully sustained. Violist Lawrence Dutton was the most visibly demonstrative of the four. swaving to the rhythm of the phrase, while Drucker kept his eyes firmly on the music.

Nothing seemed left to chance, a wise decision given that tempos were generally swift, even a mite breathless. Beethoven marked his slow movement Andante con moto, meaning "don't dawdle". The Emersons took due note, but switching to their new Deutsche Grammophon CD of the piece - recorded two years ago but only just released - revealed a level of repose lacking from Wednesday's performance. The Scherzo. too, seemed rushed and, again, comparisons with the recording suggest impatience on stage. The F major Quartet is Op 18's strongest component and features an anguished slow movement that was inspired, we're told, by the burial-vault scene from Romeo and Juliet. It's marked "Adagio affet-tuoso e appassionato" but although the Emersons brought great visceral excitement to the music's more urgent episodes, there was no sense of danger, no necessary risk-taking: it was all too far from the edge. Likewise in the first "Razumovsky" Quartet where the hilarious Scherzo spins a dazzling sequence of musical one-liners and the Adagio cries its soulful confession. On one occasion, Drucker almost broke the barriers of propriety (that was during the latter half of the slow movement), but elsewhere I sensed the same predictable story of earnestness, accuracy and applied charm.

It seems palpably unfair to criticise playing that, if taken at face value, has so much to offer - certainly in terms of polish, virtuosity and finesse. The Emersons are fine musicians: they have impeccable taste; they phrase intelligently and they make a beautiful sound. And yet, somehow, their Beethoven never caught fire, at least not on this first lap of their complete cycle. I could hardly believe that here was the group that brought Bartok to the boil last summer (QEH). Perhaps Beethoven poses them a more personal challenge: perhaps they need to cast off the formalities of stage performance and ease into private dialogue where, away from the public's gaze, they can "do the Beethovenian thing" without any inhibitions. But, of course, it's early days yet and they could quite easily loosen up for the rest of the series.



'I'll tell you the best thing about Victorian satire - no subtlety'

// I'll tell you." says Samuel Alderton. "what isn't funny." "What?" I ask. not funny. Neither is Monty Python, the Young Ones, and those so-called alternative comedians like Ben Elton and that bloody stupid Alexei Sayle. They aren't funny. It's all 'Thatcher' this, shout shout shout." "Not at all funny, no no," adds Samuel's wife, Melissa. "Shouting isn't funny. Yelling isn't amusing." "Out of all the con-Samuel. sternly, "I'll tell you who the only funny ones are," "Who?" I ask. "The Goons," replies Samuel, "Now "Listen to this," he says, "Listen to this." "The Goons," replies Samuel, "Now that's funny," "Yes," laughs Melissa. ... it's devastating."

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"Ying Tong Yiddle I Po ... Ha ha ha!" Samuel and Melissa Aiderton are "Paul Merton." he replies. "He's the founder members of LOVS -"Lovers of Victorian Satire" - a small group of like-minded people dedi-cated to bringing the joys of "this marvellous, marvellous, marvellous old art" back to the people. They perform their favourite songs and sketches at schools and festivals, and organise evenings in which they all sit around and laugh and shake their heads in temporary comedians," concludes wonder. Which is exactly what 25 of us

He puts on a very old 78 recording of a man performing a song entitled "In Trinity Church I Met Me Doom", and we sit in silent awe. "In Trinity Church I Met Me Doom..." sings the man. "A Ra Ra A Ra A De De Deee," sing Samuel and Melissa in unison. "The missus hit me with a horom" sings the missus hit me with a broom" sings the man. "A Ra Ra A Ra A De De Deee," sing Samuel and Melissa. "You see," says Samuel. "They didn't need to shout. They didn't need nastiness."

"He's bein' a little nasty to his wife." I offer tentatively. "It's a joke," bellows Samuel. "It's all clean fun. Bloody political correctness. It's not like he's hitting her with a broom, is it now?"

"It's not wife battery," agrees Melissa. "I'll tell you the best thing about Victorian satire." "What?" I ask. "No subtlety," she replies. "No nuances. Nowadays it's all nuances and sub-texts. Bloody ridiculous. What are they?

Funnymen, or university lecturers? The high-spot of tonight's party is listening to Samuel and Melissa performing a sketch entitled "The Gendarme". "Excuse me," says Samuel. "Oui?" says Melissa. "My lady wife," says Samuel, "fell out of bed last night." "Ooh la la!" says Melissa. "She's so fat," concludes Samuel, "that she rolled herself back to sleep.

There is a huge laugh.

1895," whispers an aged man called Bob. "One hundred whole years ago." He gives his wife a wink. "Before even you were born. You see, our Victorian forefathers knew how to let their hair down, contrary to popular belief."

"I've got a question." I say. "Why is he telling a policeman that his wife fell out of bed? You'd be done for wasting police time if you did that now. You'd probably be locked in a padded ceil."
"Well, that's the difference isn't it?"

says Melissa. "The policemen were a lot more friendly in those days. Life was

a lot more friendly."
"I'll tell you who I blame for the

"That joke can be traced back to death of Victorian satire," says Samuel later, as the night reaches its end. "Who?" I ask.

"Thatcher," says Samuel.

"You sound like an alternative come-

dian," I say.
"No, seriously," says Samuel. "When Thatcher said we should all get back to Victorian values, she was talking about discipline and silence during meals. That sort of thing. It gave the Victorians such a bad name. You know what Victorian values really were?"

"What?" I say. "Having a bloody good laugh," says Samuel. "That's what, Having a bloody



critical view

THE PLAY FLESH FLY

Berr Jonson's classic comedy, a savage satire on overview human greed and sickness, in Trevor Lloyd's new adaptation for Graeae, Europe's leading theatre company for disabled actors.

Paul Taylor was impressed. "A comic zest that is

free from either sentimentality or brooding

bittemess. An evening you won't forget in a hurry."
"Proof, if any were needed that [disability] can be deployed with imagination and style," observed Time Out. "This is theatre at its most compelling. A classic has been made to speak with startling urgency and freshness," exclaimed the Telegraph.

Oval House, London (0181-582 7680) to Sun. Tues-Weds, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0113 244-2111); on view Thurs-Sat, Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524)r.

A million miles away from our view special pleading. A tumultuous follow-up to the huge success of their production of Ubu.



On general release, cert 15.

Overly stylised, long (around

disappointing. Don't believe

three hours) and

Al Pacino as a smart, lonely cop and Robert De Niro. as the leader of a gang of thieves. Adam Mars-Jones was lukewarm, Even the action set-piece "doesn't make the pulse race". "Our old Hollywood friend, Zen Buddyism... how little

Michael "The Last of the Mohicans" Mann goes back to the streets (LA) with a couple of obsessi

THE FILM

human drama there is," groaned the Financial Times. "Heat applies the heat," approved the Times. "The most spectacular B-movie ever made" proclaimed the Guardian. "The best American film of the '90s. That good," declared Time Out.

biography of post war Britain.

Thomas Sutcliffe found it "an uneven introduction livel the bet may be wornable yet "Littlerly." enthralling... beautifully acted and smoothly ... directed"; cheered the Mail. "Undeniably gripping", said Time Out. "Wallace and Growit without the humour", opined the independent on Sunday. "The acting was uniformly excellent," enthused the Mail...

THE TELEVISION SERIES

OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH

Peter Flannery's nine-part saga of political and emotional compation follows four friends over three

decades from 1964, in other words, a scarpatised

on Sunday. Excellent, declared the Sunday

9pm BBC2, Mondays

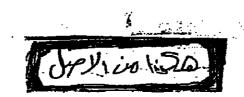


Nick Coleman described it as "brilliant" and was Nick Coleman described it as "unitiant" and was tremendously impressed by her range and "starting passion". "What the show missed in traditional rabble-rousing dynamics was more than made up for by Björk's Invertive and energetic style of projection," applauded the Times. "Heresavoirs of imagination set her apart from every

other star," marvelled the Guardian.



COUN MCPHERSON



By Jason Cowley

the critical reception of a book? This March, you are sure to hear, sooner or later, of The Debt to Pleasure, by John Lanchester, easily the most hyped novelistic debut since Vikram Seth's .4 Suitable Boy. Lanchester's book has been pre-emptively applauded as "the been pre-emptively applauded as "the publishing event of the year" and as on their publication. In 1996, publishthe most brilliant and original novel to appear by an English author for a decade" - not by the critics, but by his own publishers, Picador. In case, that is too muted for the book-reading audience, Picador has also predicted that the novel will take its place alongside the "great international bestsellers: Patrick Susskind's Perfume, Donna Tartt's The Secret History and Peter Hoeg's Miss Smilla's Feeling for

cookbook, The Debt to Pleasure is narrated by the fastidiously fatigued Tarquin Winot, gourmet, aesthete and murderer. There is a sumptuousness and Nabokovion hauteur about the prose, but also an oppressive knowingness of tone that doesn't always ring true. Still, the hype appears to be working. The Debt has been sold to publishers in Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Sweden and Brazil, Lanchester has become a rich man without selling a single copy of his book. And one could happily write off its success course, you can't expect to do that. as no more than cunning marketing were it not for a strange phenomenon.

At the Frankfurt Book Fair last October, Picador held a party at which Lanchester congenially received his admirers - Japanese translators, Italian scouts, Polish scribblers. After the event, the fair resounded to the sound of his name - but people seemed to be speaking about the book exclusively in the terms prescribed by the publisher. Comparisons were being made – as though they were original thoughts with Donna Tartt and Patrick Suskind. of a novel. The important thing is to More than once I heard the book make people talk about it. You can do described as "the publishing event of this by forcing your way into the newsthe year". And back in England, the same phrase began to appear in previews of spring fiction...

pretations of one of its titles. It's quite

an a publisher predetermine a concept, the publisher-as-critic: very postmodernist.

morning and found myself famous," after the first two cantos of his sprawling narrative poem "Childe Harold's ers are so skilled and assiduous at creating an aura of pre-publication expectation that writers can achieve a kind of fame long before they have published anything at all.

Jon Riley, who hought The Debt for Picador, concedes that there's a danger that the hype may, in the end, work first novel that, when you publish one against it. "I think people are rightly you believe in, you must try to get suspicious of publishers pre-publication celebrations," he says. "But you ally tell your sales and marketing suspicious of publishers' pre-publica-tion celebrations," he says. "But you only get the chance every so often in Structured as a kind of elaborate your life to make the claims we've been making about John's novel and get away with it. I'm encouraged that other people are using the same kind of language as we are about the book, even though they don't have a vested interest in it.'

Tim Adams, literary editor of a national Sunday paper, says, "Although I feel we are always going to be susceptible to hype. I am suspicious when a publisher starts to talk up a book. They are under pressure to produce one new sensation each season, and, of Publishers also seem obsessed with finding new young writers - the next big thing - when I think they would be better served investing in some of their more established names." What does he think of the Lanchester? "Oh, it fully justifies the hype: it's an exceptional novel."

Another way in which publishers can guarantee interest in a first novel is to pay a lot of money for it. Evelyn Waugh gave this advice to an aspiring writer:
"Reviews matter very little in the case papers in some other way." Iwo young writers who have broken free from the same about the Lanchester." ghetto of the book pages are Martin What it seems Picador has done with Bedford and James Hawes, both of nothing less than try to control the their novels Acts of Revision and A terms on which the novel will be White Merc with Fins were bought by assessed, to pre-arrange future inter- Transworld and Cape for large bucks. A lecturer at Swansea University,

Hawes has written an excitable, hectic debut about an indolent graduate who Hype in the mid-Nineties is a mat-ter of pre-arranging fame. In 1812. calls "Michael Winner's Private Bank". Lord Byron could write, "I awoke one As with the Lanchester, the book is receiving the full treatment. "I photocopied White Merc 25 times as soon as I'd bought the book," says publisher Dan Franklin, "hecause you have to get everybody in the office saying it's great. even editors from other divisions."

The reason for this excitement is mostly money. "If a publisher has paid a lot for a book, then he is going to promote it," says the agent and publisher Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, "It's so difficult to get anyone interested in a departments that you've bought a mas-terpiece, they eventually believe you."

Ursula MacKenzie, publishing director of Transworld, points out that the only way to create interest and expectation in novels for which the promotional budget is small is to decorate the jacket with encomia. Among the most vigorously puffed debuts of the moment are Catherine Fox's Angels and Men, over which fellow Penguin authors Barbara Trapido and Pat Barker expressed great enthusiasm; and David Huggins's The Big Kiss, on whose jacket the names of Will Self, Stephen Frears and Stephen Fry are daubed like slogans. That Self and Fry are also among the most prolific puffers in town may not diminish the force of their recommendations.

MacKenzie says: "We often send out our first novels to writers and celebrities to see if we can get some good quotes. Sometimes this is the only way you can help a first novelist. We did this with Kate Atkinson's [Whitbreadwinning] Behind the Scenes at the Museum, for which we were lucky enough to get a fabulous quote from Margaret Forster which we put on the front of the proof. We were also lucky that Kate's novel has a breadth of appeal; I don't think you can

As for Lanchester himself, he is acutely conscious of the burden of its cleverly calculated campaign is whom made front page news when expectation that's been placed on him. "It's like I've been dragged slowly up to the top of a roller coaster," he told the Bookseller in a recent interview, "and now I'm about to be let go..."



Old Nick and the spin doctors

Was the Devil the child of anti-Jewish propaganda? Jan Morris raises an agnostic eyebrow

the fire reading interesting theological speculations in the company of a learned, articulate, sometimes repetitive but never boring American academic, this may well be the book for you. If, on the other hand, you are pining for fresh insights into the roots and loyalties of evil; skip it Like most theologians, of all religions, Professor Pagels is either unable or reluctant to differentiate between the real and the figurative, so that she leaves us at the end little the wiser about what or who Satan was originally supposed to be - being, image, fact or symbol?

I write not just as an outand-out agnostic but as a despiser of theological and philosophical gobbledygook. Take this banal truism, so dear to Pagels that she prints it twice: "The worldview of most peoples consists essentially of two pairs of binary oppositions: human/not human and we/they". Big deal. It would be an odd world view indeed that confused one's grandmother with a centipede and could not tell the difference between ourselves and everyone else; but the thought chimes happily with the currently fashionable concept

of "The Other". Pagels's catchy title is misleading. The Origin of Satan is

f you feel like a few hours by journals on varied theological subjects, now revised to make them "more generally accessible" for you and me, and it returns only intermittently, when its author remembers (or perhaps when its editor reminds her), to the explicit theme of Satanic origins. It with the Judaeo-Christian tradition, virtually ignoring peo-ple like the Zoroastrians (from whose alarming demon Ahriman, the encyclopaedia tells me, the Jews probably got the idea of Satan, during their Babylonian exile), let alone the very peculiar Yezidis of Kurdistan, who deny the existence of evil altogether and believe that Satan

is the chief of God's angels. No, it is the demonization of "The Other" that Pagels is writing about, and in particular the deliberate and fateful demonization, in the first centuries of Christianity, of the mass of the Jewish people gospels, she demonstrates, whole story of Christ's execution, cast the Jewish people Wondering whether the evangelists meant this literally is about like wondering whether The Origin of Satan Allen Lane, £20

but despite the book's title that is not the point. The point concerns itself almost entirely is that Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, writing in dangerous times of Roman domination, were anxious to put the blame for Christ's death upon the Jews rather than upon the Romans, and thus established a tradition and a reproach which perhaps did not end with the Holocaust.

This part of the book is entirely fascinating and, to an innocent like me, horrifying too. Could it really be that Christ's evangelists, the ultimate spokesmen of Love and Truth, were hardly more than spin-doctors? Did they make up the entire episode of Christ's appearance before the Sanhedrin? Was Christ's dialogue - mostly by other Jews. with Pontius Pilate purely fic-Successive New Testament tional? Was Pilate himself, for whom most of us probably while naturally giving a cos- have some sneaking sympathy, mological meaning to the really no more than a bully and a bigot? Worst of all, could Marthew simply have invented more and more in the role of the terrible cry of the Jewish devils - children of Satan. crowd - "His blood be on us, and on our children" - which has reverberated so appallingly down the centuries?



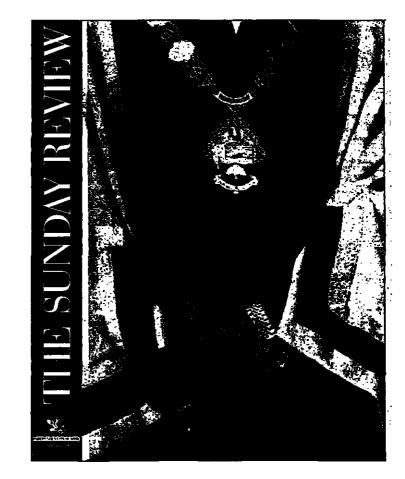
The devil you know: Hell, as seen by Pol de Limbourg in 1410

and the more vicious towards the Jews at large, until in the last one (John's), Jesus himself allegedly pronounces the anathema: 'Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning ... he is a liar, and the father of it". In the end the Jews who oppose Christ appear to be no longer a mere ethnic or religious group, but Pagels calls this disreputable progression, momentarily justifying the title of her book.

Later, irrelevance seems to стеер in. Pagels drifts off into miscellaneous reportage about early Christianity: persecu-tion under the Romans. based upon learned papers the Archbishop of Canterbury The later the gospel, it she has written for scholarly really believes in virgin birth, seems, the more distorted, growth of Christian heresies, ated it.

none of which tell us much more about the Satanic idea. We are left to surmise whether the early Christians - Jesus himself, for that matter believed in Satan as an actual being, or whether the Devil was, for most of them, no more than a sort of frightful logo. Did the evangelists wish us to suppose that Jesus encountered Satan bodily in the desert, and resisted his temptations face to face, or were they talking allegorically? Was Judas Iscariot an actual embodiment of Satan, flesh and blood, in the way that Jesus was God made man? Pagels never tackles this transcendental aspect of her subject. Her approach remains sternly textual and academic.

But that's theology for you, I suppose. The events discussed in this book have had consequences almost unimaginably important. Much of human history has turned upon the death of Christ: millions of people have suffered from the evident manipulations of the gospellers. It must be strange to spend a lifetime exploring the historical minutiae of it all, while aware of the almost farcical possibility at the centre of it: namely the fifty-fifty chance that there never has been a God at all, or a Devil either! How much easier the world would have been, if an agnostic had cre-

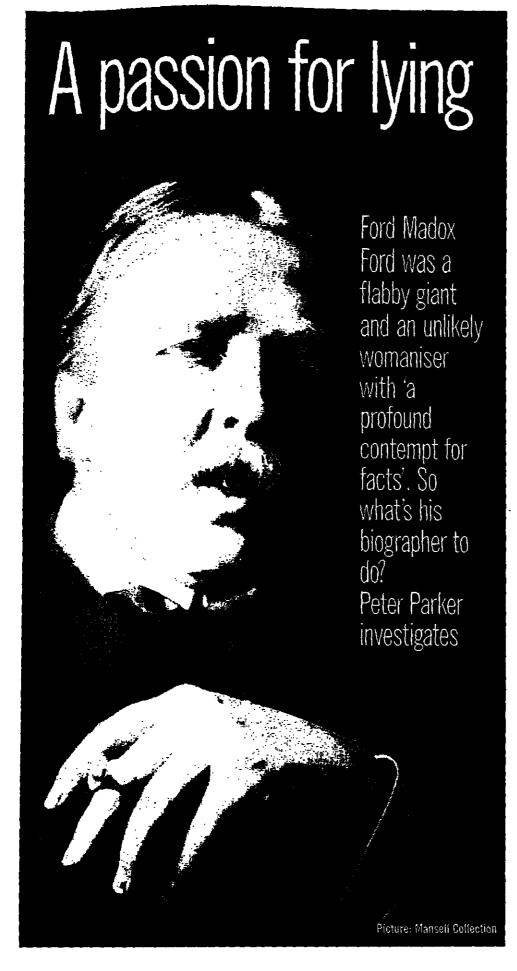


Reality bites: he's black, he's communist, and he's the mayor of Eugene Terreblanche's town. Robert Block on the Afrikaners' nightmare

But is it art? Blake Morrison on pornography

Plus: Mark Lamarr - big softie at heart; and Britain's coffee craze

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



Ford Madex Ford: A Dual Life Vol 1: The World Before the War by Max Saunders, Oxford, £35

them are much read or even remembered today. Posterity has agreed with him in judging his mas-terly little tragedy, The Good Soldier, and his quartet of novels about the First World War, Parade's End, his best work. The volumes of poetry, biography, criticism and topography have long since been cast into one of literary history's many oubliettes.

In this Ford has suffered the fate of many prolific Edwardian figures but the decline in his own literary fortunes was exacerbated by the character he presented in his memoirs. His reputation for boastfulness and mendacity is matched in this century only by that of Roy Campbell, and the standard biography (by Arthur Mizener, 1972) is as much a work of censure as of celebration. Max Saunders's vast critical biography - almost 500 closely printed pages, followed by a further 100 pages of notes - is in part a work of restitution.

Despite its length, the present volume deals only with Ford's life up until 1916, which leaves a great deal to come, not least Parade's End, his editorship of the Transatlantic Review, and his relationships with Stella Bowen, Janice Biala and Jean Rhys, whose novel Quartet - a distinctly Fordian tragedy of amatory entanglements and moral corruption - is based

upon her involvement with him. What we have here, therefore, is the story of Ford's dual inheritance (German intellectual on his father's side. English Pre-Raphaelite on his mother's), his literary apprenticeship, his contentious collaborations with Joseph Conrad, his editorship of the English Review, his unhappy marriage and the subsequent relationship with Violet Hunt, his war service and the writing and

publication of The Good Soldier. Saunders's excellent Introduction is a thought-provoking meditation upon literary biography in general and its particular application to Ford, whose mysterious love life (no one actually knows whether he married Violet Hunt), unreliability as an autobiographer, and complex "literary personality" make

ord Madox Ford wrote him as slippery as a trout. "My over 70 books, but few of aims," Saunders writes, "are to wonder at the kind of man Ford is as a writer; to ask how he became that writer, to investigate what happened while he was writing, as well as while he wasn't; to consider the implications for biography of Janice Biala's comment that 'His true private life and the one far more difficult to write ... is his inner life, the one that produced the books, not the gossip; and to attempt something like a composite portrait of Ford as revealed in his books."

This ambition is largely realised, but those who know nothing of Ford's eventful "outer" life may have problems following its erratic course which, like that of a will-o'-thewisp, flickers intermittently among the dense thickets of critical discourse.

According to Wyndham Lewis, Ford "was a flabby lemon and pink giant, who hung his mouth open as though he were an animal at the Zoo inviting buns" but he seems to have had no difficulty attracting women, and married his first (and only legal) wife after spiriting her away from her obstructive parents.

There followed numerous affairs (probably including one with his sister-in-law); a succession of more or less scandalous partnerships; protracted, bitter and very public divorce proceedings; a brief spell in prison; persistent money problems; and frequent wrangles and fallingsout with friends and colleagues. Saunders demonstrates that Ford's work not only reflects this life but occasionally prefigures it: he would dream up the plot of a story or novel and then follow a similar course in his life.

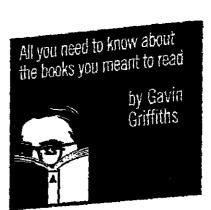
Wilde's assertion that "life imitates art" could equally be applied to Ford, who was impatient of the distinctions between real and poetic truth. "I don't really deal in facts" he wrote in his first volume of memoirs, "I have for facts a most profound contempt." Saunders might have taken as his epigraph a passage from Wilde's essay "The Decay of Lying": "Lying and poetry are arts - arts, as Plato saw, not unconnected with each other and they require the most careful study, the most disinterested devotion.

It is the suspicion that Ford's devotion to lying was anything but disinterested that has caused his detractors to vilify him, but Saunders investigates the most contentious of Ford's anecdotes and concludes that ambiguity (one aspect of his "duality") explains much, while his favoured literary mode of "impressionism" leads naturally and fruitfully to a different sort of truth.

This is fine when one is dealing with literary memoirs, but not very helpful when one is trying to establish important facts. After rehearsing all the possible versions of the as yet undi-vorced Ford's "marriage" to Hunt, Saunders is obliged to admit that "it is all an impressionist haze". Following his subject's lead, however, he observes (quite rightly) that: "The evidence can't tell us conclusively what happened but it does say much about what Ford, Hunt, and their friends and acquain-

tances thought about it." Biographies that champion their subjects are always heartening, but Saunders's detailed rebuttal of former theories is such that the reader frequently feels forgotten. Reading the book is rather like watching a particularly complicated trial from the public gallery, as Saunders painstakingly sifts the evidence and picks apart his predecessors case for the prosecution. Furthermore, his laudable advocacy occasionally leads him to discard subtleties when a more obvious explanation is staring him in the face. For instance, of The Soul of London (1905) he writes: "the very term 'soul' - psyche - conveys a disconcertingly psychological approach to its subject". It is unlikely to have disconcerted anyone who had lived through the 1890s, a period that was almost literally soulful, and the titles of the other books in this trilogy, The Heart of the Country and The Spirit Of the People, make The Soul of London sound

almost like a cliché. That said, where others have found fault, Saunders has discovered riches. The main achievement of his biography is to show the fascinating and productive interplay between fact and fiction, life and art, autobiography and impressionism.



This week:

THE GOOD SOLDIER (1915) by Ford Madox Ford

Plot: "This is the saddest story I have ever heard," begins John Powell, the rich but dim American narrator. There are three other main characters: Florence, his wife, apparently an invalid incapable of sexual intercourse: Leonora Ashburnham, a Catholic of strong principles and astringent personality; and her husband Edward, ostensibly a gentleman of the old school cursed with a dicky heart. The quartet have muted fun for nine years on their regular holidays in Nauheim, a German spa town for the physically indisposed. Then, in 1913, the Ashburnhams bring with them their ward Nancy Rufford, and, inexplicably, Florence kills herself. Gradually, Dowell learns the truth; for nine years Florence, in the pink of health, has been enjoying an affair with Edward: Leonora has been monitoring his extramarital engagements from their inception. Florence kills herself because she realises Edward is getting steamed up about Nancy, who has just emerged from a convent education. Edward, appalled by his latest depravity, commits suicide. Nancy goes mad and Dowell nurses her. just as he nursed Florence. Leonora remarries and emerges triumphant.

Theme: "You may live with another for years and years in a condition of the closest daily intimacy and never know what goes on in your companion. Layer by layer, Ford reveals the mysteriousness of other people: individuals are frenetically driven by loneliness and lust but strive to appear buttoned-up and well-mannered. The "real" world dissolves into a series of peculiarly angled points of view.

Style: The story creeps out crabwise. Dowell changes his mind, tinkers with events, re-adjusts the reader's judgement. Ford invigorates his narrator's clichés with the injection of melodrama; the polished flatness of the prose mirrors exactly Dowell's sophisticated naivety.

Chief strengths: The tone is inextricably both pathetic and funny. Dowell's plight should evoke sympathy; but his baroque obtuseness and lack of selfreflection transform him into a clownish cuckold. Ford also unstabilises the notion of character: Edward Ashburnham is an uptight gentleman farmer beloved by tenants and a potential child molester. Uncomfortable for him and the reader.

Chief weakness: Ford's compulsion to gild the lily in several coats of emulsion diminishes some of the final impact: only Hamlet has so many casually violent deaths.

What they thought of it then: 1915 was not an auspicious year for experimental fiction. Conrad. Ford's old chum, remarked with unhelpful clusiveness: "the whole vision of the subject is perfectly amazing".

What we think of it now: Too clever. "Ford is obstructed less by his defects than by the effusiveness of total ability" (V.S. Pritchett). Damned as "a minor masterpiece".

Responsible for: Graham Greene's hommage, the equally underrated The End of the Affair.

Walking on eggshells

Sue Arnold's endearingly frank memoirs go beyond the personal. By Christina Hardyment

It wasn't until 1985, when Sue enough for us to want to read A Burmese Legacy: Arnold was in her mid-forties, about her embarrassment at look-I that she plucked up the courage to explore the connections provided by her two Burmese grandmothers. The search for roots is as irrational and irrestistible as urban snobs of North London. salmon swimming thousands of miles to find the stream in which they were spawned. The trouble is that what is fascinating for the family genealogist may be of

scant interest to the rest of us. Those who go public with their her father, Daddy, We Hardly Knew You) or writers who feel that their origins seem to offer reflections of wider moment than the personal. The weakness of Arnold's book is that for too long we place her in the first category, though jibbing a little at the idea that a mere columnist should assume she is interesting

ing less than Anglo-Saxon, her ancient uncles in Dawlish and her mother's ill-fated attempts to

But at least she is laudably unpretentious, even self-mocking. to fight the fact) has always had a galaxy of glamorous associa-tions - General Slim, Neville Shute, Elephant Bill. So we bear family histories tend to be the famous (remember Germaine Greer's quest for the truth about the famous (remember Germaine Greer's quest for the truth about the family histories tend to be the skilful pen portraits of newly discovered relations, the adventure of her mother's trek across Burma as a refugee (straight out of A Town Like Alice), increasingly sympathetic to the plight of

the mixed-race child. boarding houses with "colour bars" and having your five-year-old knees lashed with nettles was bad enough; but to have Sir dictatorship and democracy.

Rediscovering My Family by Sue Arnold Hodder, £17,99

And Burma (though Arnold likes Adrian Boult complaining to the editor of the Observer in the Seventies about "wops" being sent to interview him must have been

deeply humiliating. Our patience is rewarded. For the book's strength is that, as Arnold gets into her stride, we realise that she is saying something very important indeed about the attitude we should be taking towards a country that deeply affected the lives of thou-Being turned away from Fitties sands of families in Britain (27.000

Myanmar, as Burma is now called, is all set to be the latest of the glamorous far-away places lauded in holiday brochures - picturesque pagodas, the road to Mandalay, the Irrawaddy river. But it is a wolf in sheep's clothing, governed by a military dicta-torship which is exporting teak and rubies hand over fist for private gain, and which has even sold native fishing rights to neighbouring countries. The tourist trails are hedged about with security guards; free speech is illadvised. On her last visit, Arnold found her cousins suddenly mum;

letters and presents went astray. The change of name is a ruthless piece of public relations legerdemain: the generals seem to think that the flocks of tourists ripe for fleecing won't realise that this is the country in which university students were crushed in 1988 considerably more bru-tally than the Chinese students of



Arnold: laudably unpretentious

Tiananmen Square, and in which ily crushed in Burma but interna-Noble Peace prizewinner Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party won a landslide victory in 1990, was placed under house arrest for five

Even now, theoretically free, Suu Kyi and her supporters are been murdered, but many more remain. "There are too many people behind us for us to fail," said one of Arnold's cousins, context, Arnold's endearingly elected as an NLD MP in 1990. Free speech may have temporar-

tional protests and the big stick of economic sanctions have made it necessary for the military government to don at least the trappings of democracy in order to board the gravy train of interna-

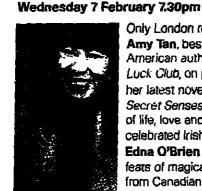
tional trade.
The NLD's survival depends walking on eggshells. Many have on the impetus towards open government which has been effected by economic pressure and liberal world opinion. In this frank fragment of autobiography

Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank

Fiction International

Amy Tan · Edna O'Brien Mordecai Richler

The Times Literary Supplement Reading



Only London reading from Amy Tan, bestselling Chinese American author of The Joy Luck Club, on publication of her latest novel The Hundred Secrét Senses. Candid tales of life, love and loss from celebrated Irish writer Edna O'Brien and dazzling feats of magical storytelling from Canadian novelist Mordecai Richler.

TLS

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Boneless frogs and spicy porcupines

Christopher Hirst samples the "most offensive sausage in the world"

Aften the most interesting apt, have concocted a fabu-Elizabeth David and is cerbook, which advocated luridly-dyed dishes garnished with rose-hips and custard with a sprinkling of cogs and for pudding.) Skipping a totally impractical, The Decadent Cookbook fits into this category. (Not that Marinetti would have approved of it, soft foods for their corrupting and whipped cream. Instead influence on the Italian character.)

fruity monikers may strike

cookbooks are not the most practical. This is They begin with the Roman arguably true of the works of recipes of Apicius: roast dormice in honey and, rather tainly the case with more feasibly, squid stuffed Marinetti's Futurist Cook- with calves brains. (Any leftover brains can be mixed gears. While far from being millennium, the authors move on to Antonio Ghislieri, otherwise known as the Grand Inquisitor of the Counter Reformation. Coneven though one of his dishes sidering his torturous trade, is included. A vehement you might expect that the enemy of decadence, he selection from his kitchen damned spaghetti and other would include rack of lamb there is boneless frog soup, spitted bear (minus the

Lucan and Gray, whose head) and spicy porcupine. The rest of the book adopts some as being suspiciously a thematic approach. The

The Decadent Cookbook by Mediar Lucan & Durian Gray Dedalus, £8.99

authors first turn their attention to the subject of blood. Their sanguinary suggestions include Swedish black blood soup, several versions of boudin noir and a crimson tart made with blood oranges. The sombre topic of death inspires a unexpectedly vivacious selection of dishes, ranging from gravadlax (literally "grave"or "buried" salmon) to the delightful Victorian offering "Soles in Coffins" (fish and lobster lurking inside

a hollowed-out baked putato). In a section of unusual meats, it comes as little surprise that a recipe for Manila Hot Dog is just that ("chop off head, paws and tail"). Entrecote à la Bordelaise turns out to be Rat in a Shallot Sauce. The authors take a distinctly unsentimental approach to endangered species, giving recipes for the "fewer than a dozen" surviving Japanese Ibis, the Parrot Owl of New Zealand ("hunted to the point where it is almost extinct, so presumably it is rather tasty") and the Tasmanian Wolf, which has entirely disappeared apart from an occasional paw-print and therefore provides the best candidate for that coveted 'last of the species' dish."

point is the chapter on sausages, which includes the Swiss blue sausage (its singular appearance is explained by a 1903 ordinance of the tions with a selection of Geneva Council which declared "that all sausages passages "to be read aloud made with horsemeat should be dyed blue"), a medieval revelation that decadents, porpoise sausage and a black often presumed to be tremubear sausage. Some decadent bangers with a more con- to possess such ferociously ventionally porcine filling robust and apparently limitless are Presswurst (containing pig's head and salted pork rind, it is described as "probably the most offensive sausage in the world") and a southern Italian monstrosity called La'nduia. Demanding 70lbs of "lowest quality pig meat" and 10lbs of hot red peppers, this dish is renowned for its capacity to

Perhaps the book's high scour the arteries, purge the oint is the chapter on intestines and exhibitante the sexual organs".

Lucan and Gray have holstered their arcane excavaappropriately saucy literary during dinner". It comes as a lous, Firbankian types, seem

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Street incredibility

It's the fag-end of the City boom. It's a Yank in London. It's a castle in Cricklewood. By Douglas Kennedy

cott Marshall is a man with a phobia about his oesophagus. He doesn't trust it. It plays tricks on him. It wants him dead. You see, Mr Marshall has a problem when it comes to ingesting food. It tends to lodge in that one with an expatriate Engalimentary canal between the pharynx and the stomach, threatening to asphyxiate him. Were he a sexual fetishist (of the lack of oxygen = heightened orgasm school of perversion), he would no doubt consider his constricted gullet something of a physiological bonus. But as he is a management consultant in the City, he simply regards it as a dangerous nuisance - and he recently suffered a moment of existential tristesse while crossing Blackfriars Bridge and chomping on a Mars Bar.

However, it's not just his oesophagus which is constricting Mr Marshall. His entire life is currently throttling him - he is having a bad attack of "dem thirtysomething blues".

On the surface, his existence looks as shiny and enviable as some testosterone-charged sports coupé. Of course, behind the lustrous surface lurks a less glittery underside. It is 1990, the venal glory days of the City are well and truly dead, and Scott - like every other financial whizzkid - is wondering when the downsizing axe is going to fall on his neck. His private life is a specialised business. And jumbled mess. He has a dving father, a psychotic girlfriend, a dubious management consultancy with a very dubious fourth division foot- tion with its clutch of toothy, ball club, and an all-enveloping sense of cultural displacement.

For Scott Marshall - the narrator of D.J. Taylor's English Settlement - is an

English Settlement by D. J. Taylor Chatto, £17.99

lish mother who hasn't set foot on this island in years). And, like all expatriates, he suffers from a bad case of Mid-Atlanticism - of feeling precariously balanced beiween two cultures.

Mr Marshall also has another major predicament on his hands: he is the first American I've ever encountered in fiction who sounds like a supercilious by-product of the English public school system. Or, to be a little more blunt about it, he doesn't sound American at all. My credibility meter immediately entered the red zone when I encountered passages like this: "My father was not alto-

gether a subtle man, but in the matter of England he displayed a rare and wholly efficacious delicacy. Saturated in England and Englishness, albeit of a momentously specialized sort, we questioned the incidental detail of this grand obsession rather than its wider architecture".

David Mamet beware when it comes to awesomely accurate renderings of American patois, this Taylor guy is the momentously note the street-smart idiom he employs when describing Scott's arrival at his place of business: "Reaching recepwell-groomed traffic, I flick my KLS pass at a seneschal and waft by unimpeded".

Riveting. Worthy of James Ellroy. And, of course, when I was doing Latin during my American in London (albeit New York schooldays, we

were taught to greet all Central Park West doormen with the salutation: Salve, seneschal!(a seneschal for those of you who didn't benefit from a Yankee education, being "the steward or major domo of a medieval great house").
Then there's Mr Taylor's

remarkable command of American socio-political nuance. Scott's racist southern grandfather voted Republican until Goldwater's defeat in 1964. How intriguing - as no southern redneck would have dared support the Republicans (the party of Lincoln, after all) until Ronnie Reagan came along. And then there's Scott's brother who sells timeshare apartments to movie stars in Montana. Benidorm-style timeshares in a state where the average movie-star ranch is 1500 acres? I love an author who does his research. As real estate faux-pas go, this is up there with: "And then I moved to London and rented a fabulous gothic castle in Cricklewood".

I could go on - because English Settlement is not simply riddled with fundamental inaccuracies; it is also street-dumb. Besides Mr Taylor's inability to make his narrator sound remotely American, the world Scottinhabits bears no relation to contemporary life.

If you set out to write a State of England/Between Two Cultures, novel, the least you owe your reader is accurate reportage when it comes to workaday detail and the rhythms of speech. But, like so much bad literary fiction these days, English Settlement has no connection to life-on-thestreet; rather, it is set in a preposterous Biba of preening and all-pervasive



Take that: resplendent in lion-skin wrap, matiepe-idol grin and groinal accessories, Antonio Pollaholo's Hercules fights off the Hydra— a classic image of brute-tore, according to The Hero: Manhood and Power' by John Lash (Thames & Hudson, £8.95). "Every contest between the count of monster suggests how the two must become entangled psychologically".



Just as a classic piece of women's fiction wins a major prize, we get positive discrimination. Emma Hagestadt sounds a warning

It's been a good year for literary women, particularly those living north of the Watford Gap. First the majestic Pat Barker made the journey down from Thornby-on-Tees to the Guildball to collect her Booker cheque for The Ghost Road; and this week, Yorkshire-born mother Kate Atkinson (younger and without the reassuring bosom) scooped up the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year for her first novel. Behind the Scenes at the Museum. Both ladies are more likely to be found at Betty's Tea Room than schmoozing over Jack Daniels at the Groucho Club.

To those who complain that women have no place in the macho world of the Nineties novel, one could argue that at least Pat Barker won the Booker with a novel about men and war; whereas Atkinson's book is beyond any doubt high-octane "women's fiction". It concerns families, marriages, birth and death, all of it set above a pet shop in York. Nothing could be more intimate, provincial or riveting.

Behind the Scenes is like reading Margaret Forster on Vimto. It buzzes with peppery intelligence and unconventional good sense in its depiction of several generations of Yorkshire women in a family frustrated by bad marriages and bad luck. Atkinson writes with celestial cunning, and her meshing of Ruby's history with not only her mother's (the sour-faced Bunty) and with grandmothers and great-grandmothers, is the real triumph of the

But women haven't always been this lucky. In the last ten years, most of the big literary prizes (and most desirable cheques - £20,000 for the Booker, £21,000 for the into the Bessie-Bunty school Whitbread) have gone to of modern literature.

men. In the last ten years. female Booker winners have numbered only three - Penelope Lively in 1986, AS Byatt in 1990, Pat Barker last year -while the only female Whit-bread laureate before Ms Atkinson was Joan Brady in 1993. In black and white terms, the boys have bagged £308,000, the girls £102,000. With the launch this week

of the "women only" Orange Prize for Fiction - £30,000 for the best English-language novel by a woman - the income prospects for literary ladies have taken a turn for the better. But since the Orange Prize is exclusively female, and will be judged by an all-women panel, its announcement has met with a predictable bray of disapproval. A.S. Byatt, for one, criticised the award for

"ghettoising" women. Perhaps the danger is that we shall start to think there is a ghetto called "women's literature", rather than a concept of "literature" that transcends gender. Women have indeed been under-represented in book prizes in the Nineties, but the reason for this may lie not in the macho prejudice of juries but in the zeitgeist: in the caution of publishers, in the lack of will among younger women authors to write literary fiction, in the extraordinary drift toward warlike and violent themes...

The Orange Prize may represent a clearing of the decks by women writers, a timely consideration of what fiction - by either sex should be at the end of the century; but it's a revaluation that needs careful monitoring. The Orange awards will apparently be known as "Bessies". Ms Atkinson's fictional Mum was called Bunty. We do not want to see "women's fiction" turning



Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



A Fez of the Heart by Jeremy Scal (Picador, £6.99)

Hats are the stepping stones of Turkish history, Seal suggests. After the abolition of the turban in 1826, the fez came to symbolise Turkey until it too was banned in 1925. In a marvellous mélange of travel and history, Seal pursues the lingering remnants of "fez culture" in order to probe the complex character of modern Turkey. Original and beautifully observed, the book reads like Chatwin with jokes.



Sunrise with Sea Monster by Neil Jordan (Vintage, £5.99)

Neil Jordan's third novel is as sensuous as any of his films. Locked together in a terraced house above the Irish Sea, father and son find unexpected release with the arrival of a young piano teacher and the outbreak of war. A quietly melodramatic book that catches German submarines, sea monsters and lost love in one tight net.



Powell (Heinemann, £9.99)

These jortings make you wish the novelist had kept a diary all his life. Along with much waspish wit, there is broad comedy as Powell, 80, tangles with the modern world. Mistakenly thinking Mrs Thatcher a fan of Apollinaire, he perplexes her by referring to the poet whenever they meet. Fascinated by genealogy, he muses about pop star Roger Daltrey, 'a Lincolnshire name, connected with my mother's family, I think."



Remembering My Good Friends by George Weidenfeld (HarperCollins,

Fresh from Nazi Vienna, George Weidenfeld compared entry into English society to stepping into a series of Turkish baths; but quicker than he could say "Vita Sackville-West", he was living it up in Fitzrovia, the Savoy and Oxfordshire. His fruitily avuncular autobiography revels in encounters with the posh (The Longfords) and the good (The Pope).



The Last Great Frenchman by Charles Williams (Abacus, £12.99)

So intransigent during wartime exile that Churchill referred to him as "the beast of Hampstead", de Gaulle saw himself as France personified. By taking power in 1958, he "almost certainly saved the country from civil war". Charles Williams believes that he never forgave Britain for defeating Sudan in 1898. This absorbing work reveals the introspective intellectual hidden behind the unbending public



The Virago Book of Women Travellers, edited by Mary Morris (Virago, £8.99)

An unusually entertaining anthology of pieces by women travellers who took the bull by the horns, or in one case, the horse between the legs. Gems include Margaret Fountaine on chasing butterflies (and men) in Calabria; and the aptly named Ethel Brilliana Tweedie on the perils of riding side-saddle.



A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper by John Allen Paulos (Penguin, £6.99)

As you would expect of a maths prof, Paulos deprecates the lazy thinking and statistical illiteracy he finds in the daily blats. He notes that a recipe claiming to provide 761 calories per serving is "meaningless precision". Chaos theory, Paulos says, explains why forecasts are often inaccurate: the best are short-term, simple and hazy. A revealing, if bitty, critique, user-friendly to the innumerate.



Married Love by Marie Stopes (Gollancz, £6.99)

Marie Stopes's classic exploration of sex and women's "sorrow" is still a fascinating read nearly 90 years after its first publication. Wonderfully lyrical when it comes to women's "moon-month" rhythms and "sex-tides", Stopes isn't afraid of naming mucus membranes or tumescent parts. An advocate of the revitalizing benefits of separate bedrooms and Alpine air.

We recommend...

Barnes (Cape, £13.99) Sexy, sweet and affectionate tales of life outre Manche.

Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday life by Marjorie Garber, (Hamish Hamilton, £25) Bisexuality and its meanings.

Dear Dodie by Valerie Grove (Chatto, £13.99) Entertaining biography of the live wire behind The One Hundred and One Dalmations.

Whisky Galore read by Stanley Baxter (BBC Radio Collection, £7.99). Delicious Hebridean goings-on.

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You can plan your life by the stars, so why not your garden? 'Mystic' Anna Pavord presents a horticultural horoscope

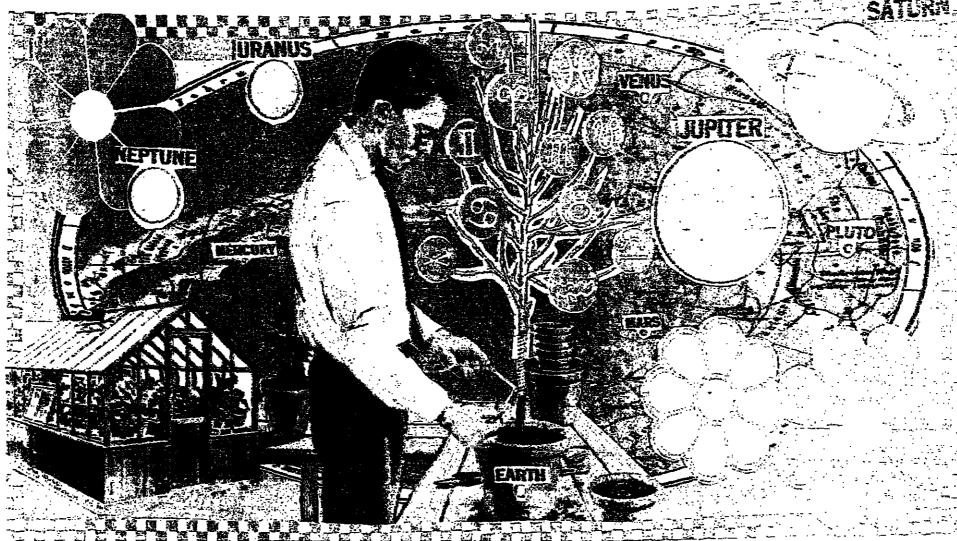
ow can it be that a serious newspaper such as the *Independent* is still without a horoscope? Everybody knows what an important part they play in public life these days, and yet here we are with no Mystic Meg, no Petulengro or astrologist of any kind on the staff. It really is too bad. Most horoscopes, though, tend to be obsessed with peripheral matters: career opportunities, emotional relationships and such like. These are interesting control of the con interesting enough in their way, but cannot compare with the really big issues: the arrival of a new pot in your life, the anxieties caused by a demanding aspidistra. Stargazers - start here.

Aquarius (22 Jan-19 Feb) Dream on Aquarians. One day you, too, could be asking a question on Gardeners' Question Time. But there is a danger that in your own garden, your dreams will never quite be translated into reality. Get round this problem neatly by designing gar-dens for other people instead. The future will always be more interesting to you than the past. Junk Jekyli. Think instead of pergolas of past. Junk Jekyll. I think instead of pergolas or spun steel, water gardens of perspex and laser light shows among the lilies. Uranus in your birth sign makes it likely that you will want to try out things that others might regard as slightly eccentric. But if they don't like your trompe-l'oeil Taj Mahal in mirror and bottle tops, more fool them.

Pisces (20 Feb-20 Mar) The Sun in your birth sign after the 19th means that you will be able to do whatever you set your mind to over the next few weeks. But still, choices must be made. 'Kiftsgate' rose or 'Rambling Rector'? 'Mermaid' or 'Paul's Himalayan'? Letting nature take its course can prove a doubtful doubtful and the state of the stat doctrine as you may have already found this winter. Drains and poplars do not mix. Pisceans are apt to be lazy and take the line of least resistance: you are curiously drawn towards wildflower gardens. But Pisceans are also intuitive. You will recognise that a plant is in difficulty long before it is past saving, a useful trait in a gardener.

Aries (21 Mar-20 April) Ariens are good at getting round obstacles and are extremely energetic. All your ebullient energy will be needed this month to circumvent some great drama. It may involve a neighbour. It may involve a boundary. You like quick results, which makes you an impatient gardener. Try this year to curb the trait. In the garden centre, avoid annuals which will die this year and go for perennials which will die next year instead. After the 15th, Mars, your ruler, moves into a tricky part of your chart. Avoid this period for servicing lawnmowers.

this game of horticultural one-upmanship, Taureans will score every time for they are careful, tenacious gardeners. Venus, your ruler, enters the bossy sign of Aries on the 9th and the days thereafter may be full of anxiety. in the front border this year? Choose carefully, for old ties, once severed, may never be remade. Your worst fault is stubborness. Try and accept advice more readily. But on the positive side this can be said: you do not believe in short cuts. Taureans always read the instructions on a pack of weedkiller.



Gemini (22 May-21 Jun) Criticism never goes down well with Geminis, but is it, after all, such a good idea to plant an all-black garden? It is ogueish, certainly, but you may begin to find learn that you do not necessarily have to throw away the potted camellias after they have fin-ished flowering. You are good at pretending to know more than you do, love variety and will be a compulsive buyer of garden gadgets. Speaking of which, there is the most amazing gismo around now which cuts edges, shaves legs and minces parsley.

Cancer (22 Jun-22 Jul) Your delight in the dif-Taurus (21 Apr-21 May) Happiness is a more ficult comes to the fore this month when Virgo (24 Aug-23 Sep) The sun in something Scorpio (24 Oct-22 Nov) Your delight in a bar- Capricorn (22 Dec-21 Jan) Long-standing obscure salvia than your neighbour's and in seedlings, always keener on dying than living, demand your attention. Pluto, warring with Mars on the 19th, indicates difficulties in your personal life. Hang on, though: your partner's grass is a whisker out of place. Loved ones do predilection for mixing purple and orange in not help this month by leaving tools lying Should it be petunias rather than busy lizzies course. You are known for your delight in looking after things, so you are likely to find yourself teamed up with tricky alpines. Failing that, you may invent immensely complicated lifesupport systems for your house plants when you go away. But this might be the year when you take less than a year to germinate.

Leo (23 Jul-23 Aug) This is a decisive month for Leos as it marks the start of the giant onion season, the Leo's favourite plant. Make the most of it. Pluto has a challenging aspect which it just the teensiest bit limiting. You can have too much even of ophiopogon. Finance continues to be a problem and will be until you learn that you do not necessarily have to throw away the potted camellias after they have finesighed flowering. You are good at pretending likely to be your thing then the more likely to be your thing then the more that and the potter of the limiting that the potter of the limiting is a chancing in a likely to be your thing than the more tasteful euphorbias and hellebores. Leos are generous, though, and therefore goodpeople to have as neighbours. "My rose is your rose," they will say munificently as their Bobby James' rambler climbs over the boundary fence and reaches 15ft tentacles across your lawn.

lash out on a really exciting new asset. A lawn edger, perhaps. You know how you fret if the not help this month by leaving tools lying the herbaceous border has almost run its unseen in the shrubbery. All the portents suggest that your black eye will have healed by the solstice. You are likely to be a good planner and organiser but you must learn not to fret if things do not always go as they should. But then that's gardening for you. You are probably best left to garden on your own, for you discover that you can get seeds which actually can be hypercritical, often unfairly, of other

Libra (24 Sep-23 Oct) Unexpected developments are about to alter the whole course of your gardening life. Look for love among the bonsai trees, however unlikely this may seem. Everything this month points towards a complete break with the past. Chuck out all your hostas and think Japanese. Librans are star self elected chairman of your county's National Gardens Scheme committee. They need you. Occasional indecision is your only downfall, but when you have decided, the results in your own garden are likely to be much photographed. Libraus get their gardens into all the best magazines.

just the boost you need to gain has unexpected consequences when offi- attachments are hard to break but, for once, forcers of the Fraud Squad turn up to repossess the divine little cherub you picked up for two songs in Pimlico. The National Trust logo stamped firmly on the base should have warned you that something perhaps was amiss. Never mind. Back to Haddonstone. You are likely to have a beady eye for everyone else's business as well as your own. Trust a Scorpio to give you the cheapest source of supply for anything from compost to cotoneasters. You are also likely to be argumentative. When at dinner parties stay off contentious issues such as peat and pesticides.

Sagittarius (23 Nov-21 Dec) You need to assert your independence this month - and fast. No matter what the style gurus say, it is perfectly possible to plant a garden without a single grey-leaved plant in it. Try it and see. There are other far-reaching changes on the horizon. Goodbye chrysanthemum. Hello dendranthema, leucangardeners for they are diplomatic, love har-mony and are brilliant mediators. Get your-not always realise how hurtful your bluntness. a characteristic of all Sagittarians, can be. Some people really do love cacti dressed up in sunglasses and paper skirts. It is not your place to stop them buying them. You rarely sulk, how-ever. But it is equally rare for you to learn from your mistakes. Sagittarians murder more rhododendrons than any other group of gardeners.

> get the pennies and lash out on a pair of secateurs. They will be so much easier to use on the philadelphus than the bayonet from the hatstand in the hall. Economical is the polite way to describe Capricorn gardeners. You are the people who save seeds wrapped in screws of paper in old Ovaltine tins and who hover round the recycling bins, waiting to retrieve Gardens Illustrated magazines that other souls are throwing away. But you are likely to work hard, not shirking even the most hideous chores such as scrubbing down the greenhouse. If you are hiring help in the garden, check hirthdates first.

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RECLAIMING THE COUNTRYSIDE 1: FARMLAND Britain's wildlife is under threat. Malcolm Smith looks at ways farmers can repair the damage they have done

Call this green and pleasant land?

n Boundary Farm at Framsden. near Stowmarket in Suffolk, barn owls are hunting over the winter-chilled fields. Come the spring, along with partridges and a couple of pairs of lapwings, the owls will breed; an indicator, according to the farmer, Chris Bacon, that Boundary Farm's wildlife is on the up.

A few decades ago, these formland species - and an awful lot more - would have been taken for granted. What cereal field didn't have a scattering of scarlet poppies and blue cornflowers? What hay meadow wasn't alive with grasshoppers or didn't have skylarks

ascending over it?
That was before Britain's agricultural revolution. Fuelled by the EC's Common Agricultural Policy, our farmland has been transformed. Pastures and meadows have been ploughed up, wetlands drained, hedges grubbed out and crops sprayed with copious quantities of insecticides, all because of a policy obsession with producing more and more food irrespective of the cost or of its environmental impact.

The destruction of wildlife has been unprecedented. In the 50 years to 1984. England and Wales lost 97 per cent of its natural lowland grasslands. the haunt of celandines, of blue butterflies, of shrews and reed buntings. Limestone and chalk grassland - one of our richest habitats for flowers and insects - is reduced to 40,000 hectares countrywide. Sussex, alone, lost a quarter of its chalk grassland between 1966 and 1980. According to the British Trust for Ornithology, 24 out of 28 farmland bird species are in decline.

Skylarks, for instance, have declined by 58 per cent over the last 25 years, a loss of three million birds. Others have fared even worse; tree sparrows down by 89 per cent and grey partridge by 82 per cent. Many once abundant flowers, brown hares - are now few and far between on Britain's farms.

Apart from habitat loss, Andy Evans and his colleagues at the RSPB list two other crucial changes which have affected farmland birds.



Firstly, most farmers have switched from sowing cereal crops in the spring to sowing them in autumn. So winter stubbles - a rich source of spilt grain and of flower and grass seeds left behind after the crop has been cut -are now uncommon. It's thought to be insects and mammals - from shrews to a major factor in the demise of the corn bunting.

Secondly, insecticide sprays have annihilated many of the invertebrates which nestlings are fed on. Spraying crops with selective herbicides to eliminate unwanted flowers not only

depletes the plants themselves but it removes the habitat many of the invertebrates need. The paucity of sawfly larvae appears to be a major factor in the decline of farmland grey partridge.

Spurred on by the CAP's largesse, more and more farmers in the 1960s and 1970s intensified and specialised into cereal growing; into dairy cattle farming; or into sheep grazing. Mixed farms have been disappearing at the rate of some 1,400 a year.

But in the last decade the CAP has been modifying its shape, largely as a

result of mounting criticism over food surpluses and their storage but partly, too, because of the destruction of wildlife habitats. Schemes such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), Stewardship in England, Tir Cymen in Wales, the Habitats Scheme and others are all designed, in one way or another, to make annual payments to farmers in exchange for them farming in a much more environmentally sensitive way. Slowly, they are helping to put back some of the lost habitats

"I've entered 50 acres of grassland into the Suffolk River Valleys ESA," says Chris Bacon. "We're going to be taking a hay cut and grazing it afterwards. These fields were all arable until recently but in the old days they were meadows. The idea is to get them richer in plants again," he adds.

In the middle of Mr Bacon's land is the six-acre Fox Fritillary Meadow owned by the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation, a haven for snakeshead fritilleries, beautiful, purple flowers reminiscent of drooping tulips. Like feather back in the CAP.

their damp meadow habitat, they were once more common. A few have reappeared in Mr Bacon's fields adjacent to the Trust's meadow, an early sign of

Setaside, introduced compulsorily in 1992 to take cereal growing land out of production, is also benefiting wildlife. Rotational setaside, where the fields taken out of production are different ones each year, is of less value because it doesn't allow wildlife habitat - except weedy stubbles for seedeating birds - to develop long term.

Setting aside the same fields or field edges for several years is better. Allowing a grassland to grow where once there was a copiously sprayed field of barley attracts not only flowers but ground nesting birds like skylarks and lapwings. voles and shrews increase too, so now uncommon barn owls have choice in their farmland diet once again.

So far, 1.5 million acres of land in the UK are setaside. The RSPB believes that it could become one of the most important means of reintroducing wildlife to many farms long devoid of the habitats and species they once nurtured. But much more flexibility is required in the rules, especially to allow farmers to graze livestock on land setaside to manage it effectively for wildlife.

Superficially, England's green and pleasant land appears just that. But in its artificial greening - the result of dosing with fertilisers and pesticides - our farmland has lost most of the wildlife it nurtured into

Repairing the damage has begun. According to the RSPB, the CAP must be further reformed to encourage a reduction in the intensity of farming operations, a return to more mixed farming and to protect traditional practices which conserve habitats such as sheep grazing on chalk grassland. They also want to see more lowland farmland put back to species-rich heathland, woodland wetlands and grassland.

That way, farmers can grow wildlife as well as food on their land and put a

It was his smell, not his anorak, that caused chaos

eer-stalking one autumn in Argyllshire, we conceived an ambitious plan to go for some stags which we had seen, through telescopes, lying out day after day on a face at the far end of the forest. It meant an early start, and after a strenuous three-and-a-half hour approach march, we were having a breather within striking distance of our quarry.

Then, to our infinite chagrin, we spotted a single hiker coming down the ridge from Ben Starav, a prominent peak to the north. His sky-blue anorak and white woolly hat with red bobble on it made him immensely conspicuous than his appearance, that caused chaos. Long before he came into the view of the deer, a whiff of his scent sent the stags hurtling away round the shoulder of the hill.

STER

We never found them again. The hiker disappeared. He never saw us. He never saw the deer. He cannot have had any idea that he had ruined our plan and our day - but all we could do in the afternoon was trudge for home.

It was incidents of this kind, repeated a hundred times over



and with ever-increasing frequency, that led eventually to the "Concordat on Access" to the Scottish hills which was ceremonially signed last week at Battleby, near Perth, the headquarters of Scottish Natbut it was his smell, rather ural Heritage. So contentious is the whole subject that meetings had been going on intermittently for nearly two years, and the paper passed through eight drafts before everyone was satisfied with its wording. Several of the participants rambiers, mountaineers, farmers, deer-forest owners, local authorities - reckon the Access Forum would have foundered but for the exceptional diplo-

matic skills of Magnus Magnusson, Chairman of SNH, who directed proceedings. The Concordat rings with

dom of access to the hills responsibility"; visitors must accept "the needs of land management" and "have respect for the needs of livestock and wildlife"; land-managers must recognise "the public's expectation of having access to the hills".

One aim of the agreement is to defuse the confrontational attitude of organisations such as the Ramblers' Association, which have tended to regard the deer-forest owners as the enemy. In a way such antagonism has been inevitable, for the reddeer ground covers a vast range - some six million acres of open hill, and nearly two million of plantations - and encompasses most of the Highlands.

The paramount need of the owners is to cull their herds efficiently so that they can keep numbers to a level which the environment can sustain. It is thus vital to them that in the culling season - autumn and early winter - their ground is disturbed as little as possible.

phrases designed to promote On the other hand hikers tolerance on all sides. Free- and mountaineers do not see why they should be barred should be "exercised with from land that is apparently open to all. The answer, of course, is

compromise. The owners now accept that they must provide more information. Notices beside paths, warning visitors that stalking is in progress, will be friendlier and fuller than in the past. Leaflets explaining when, where and why culling has to take place will be made available in information centres, hotels and pubs. Another idea is to set up an efficient hill telephone service, with answer-tapes saying which areas will or will not be safe

during the next 24 hours. The owners naturally hope that visitors will respond to such initiatives and realise that "factors other than their own enjoyment also have importance". They know that the Concordat is a fragile agreement, not supported by law; but they prefer a voluntary solution of their problems to a legal one, and now, as Mr Gibbs puts it, they "very much hope that everyone will join in to make it work".

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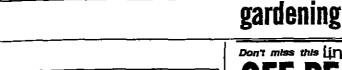
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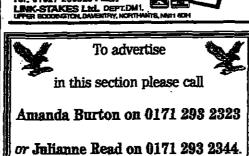
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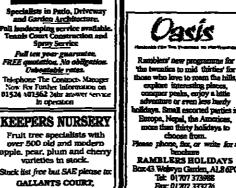












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travel skiing

The armchair skier

If you can't afford the sort of fantasy skiing shown on these pages, relax. You can experience it on video. By Liese Spencer

Scot and buddies, retiring to remote corners of Montana in search of powder and perfection, drive endlessly towards the camera or drop from cliffs to the sounds of a Beavis and Butthead-style soundtrack. The film captures spectacular scenery as the boys snowmobile into untracked territory, building igloos and following a New Age ethos of non-polluting sportsmanship. Worth watching for the trip to Antarctica.

Columbia TriStar, 50 mins, £18.99

A snowstorm has been raging in British Columbia for four days – cue for powder-junkie Greg Stump to ignore avalanche warnings and get out on Whistler mountain. A bizarre mix of tectonic history, mogul championships and nude ski-ing is topped by the inexplicable presence of a hooded skier moving between the trees. Black Diamond, 75 mins, £16.99

Here absolute pleasure is "flying through space off a 50ft cliff". While snowscape from Chamonix to Alaska provides breathtaking imagery, the film is fronted by nerds in shades modelling their facial hair for the camera. Watching this makes you wish the gang would try jumping off a cliff without skis. Black Diamond, 45 mins £18.99

Soul Session and Epic Impressions

Snowboarders carve into pristine slopes, while expert skiers race down vertiginous paths, skimming the ground with gravity-defying elegance. This makes you wish a helicopter would drop you on a mountain top and leave you to find your own way down – until scenes of a skier disappearing into an avalanche remind you of the pleasures of armchair skiing. Black Diamond, 45 mins, £18.99

Videos available from Snow+Rock shops. Details: 0171-937 0872

Snow reports

weekend arrived midweek -but only in parts. Some of the heaviest snow has fallen in Italy, with the unfortunate effect of putting off the The very best skiing of all is World Cup downhill race in North America: although scheduled for yesterday in the much-publicised thaw Sestriere. France has also has turned Vermont's skiing had some fresh snow, but into hard-pack. In the Rockmany of the northern resorts ies snow midweek added to missed out (Chamonix is the existing good base. Most only two-thirds open). resorts in Colorado and Hardly any Swiss or Austrian resorts have had new snow and rock-hard pistes are bird as usual leads the field about the best you can hope with around 3m.

The snow promised last for there. Conditions in eastern Europe are no better than fair, but in the Pyrences Andorra is enjoying about the best skiing in Europe. The very best skiing of all is Utah have 1m to 2m of snow even at resort level - Snow-

You can spend £600 a night to stay in the Austrian resort of Gstaad. Is it worth it?

Chris Gill checks out the world's six most glamorous ski resorts

ven if budgetary consider-ations confine most of us to routinely expensive resorts such as Val d'Isère and St Anton, it's reassuring to see that the other half well, the other 5 per cent – have pretty much the same sort of sking as we do. As it happens, skiing in the most glamorous resorts is not necessarily much more expensive than doing so in any big, interna-tionally known resort. But it certainly can be more expensive if you make the most of what's on offer in the hotels, restaurants and shops.

In our selection of the world's six most glamorous resorts, it's only right that affluent Switzerland should be allowed more than its fair share. Students of royal ski expeditions will look in vain for Klosters; it's not particularly glamorous and is certainly not a self consciously smart resort the Prince of Wales goes for the skiing and warm reception.

Aspen

If you're going for American swank, this old mining town in Colorado is the place. The standard view is that Aspen attracts mainly film stars and other celebrities, who seek seclusion in private mansions. But lesser mortals can be cosseted in the opulent Ritz-Carlton or splendidly Victorian Jerome (even more expensive at £250 to £480 per room per night), and choose from scores of restaurants before shooting pool in a basement dive or wangling entry to the Caribou Club. Shopping for expensive trinkets as well as clothes is a major activity, coming a close second to skiing on no less than four excellent mountains, from small but steep Aspen Mountain above the town to big and varied Snowmass, 12 miles away.



Aspen: the shopping is great, the skiing is better

Courchevel

With two restaurants earning twin Michelin stars, the smartest resort in France is also the gastronomic capital of skiing. But the thousands of Brits who flock here each winter come for the excellence and extent of the Trois Vallees skiing, stay in catered chalets and eat picnics and Mars bars at lunch time. To break the mould, fly in by air taxi to the airstrip amid the ski fields, stay up in the exclusive Jardin des Alpin (or perhaps in the rather vulgar Byblos des Neiges with rooms at a mere £250-£500 a

night), lunch only just above village level at the Chalet de Pierres and dine at the Bateau Ivre.

Cortina d'Ampezzo

Italy's most fashionable resort by a considerable margin - in season, a feast for the eyes, when the spectacular Dolomite scenery is complemented by sun terraces full of sharp-dressing Italian visitors. Many of the best lunch spots are accessible by car - a happy arrangement, since many of their pairons would not be seen dead on skis, despite the gloriously long

and spacious nursery slopes. For lunch at the Michelin-starred

Tivoli, allow £30 even with a weak

lira. A good resort for intermedi-

ates, but not much to offer experts.

France

Gstaad Consumption seems relatively inconspicuous here, in what is nevertheless one of the most upmarket of Switzerland's resorts. The winding main street might be that of any Vaudois country village, were it not for the number of Geneva jewellers with outlets there. But ride up a ski-lift on the

surrounding prettily wooded hills and into view come the turrets of the Disney-style Palace hotel. where half-board goes from £200. f600 (per night), and the private chalets where Gstaad habines spend their winter months. The skiing is low and fragmented; if you're keen, go elsewhere.

Lech-Zürs

These distinct but linked villages, high in the exceptionally snowy Arlberg mountains close to St Anton, are Austria's smartest -Anton, are Austria's smartest—
this is the only area in the country where environmental opposition to heli-skiing is ignored.
The Princess of Wales patronises
pretty Lech, and Princess Caroline
of Manager may or may be still of Monaco may or may not still visit less appealing Zurs, but fat Mercs with German plates sliding into underground garages define the market. For après-skiers, the ice bar of the Tannbergerhof is the place to be seen, having flicked your flexible friend across the counters of Strokz – a mini depart-ment store that seems to sell anything provided it costs enough.

St Moritz

The Swiss resort first patronised in winter by the dowdy British is now among the smartest in the Alps. Of the five-star hotels, you may feel at home in the dull Kulm or the pleasantly secluded Suvretta, but Vivella-clad Brits aiming to relive past glories on the Cresta run or explore the scenic and entertaining ski area should leave the glossy Carlton to the Ger-mans and the Gothic excesses of Badrutt's Palace (half-board £200-£500 a night) to the Yanks. Lunch should be at the slick Marmite (£30 for a plate of pasta), dinner out at Champfer - allow £60 for the Michelin-started John's Talvo.

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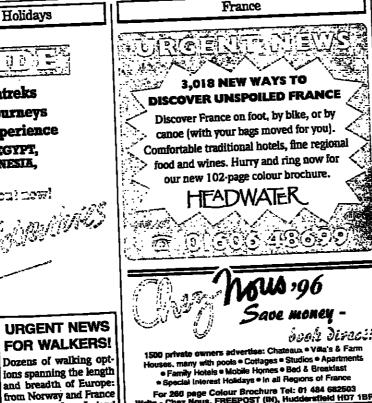
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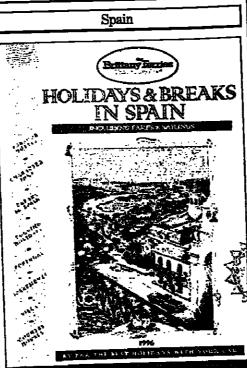
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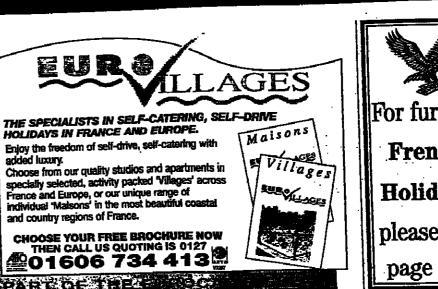
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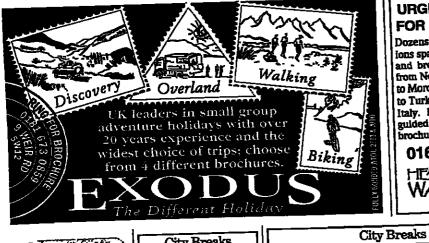








For further French Holidays please see page **16**.

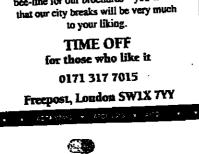


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magine that tonight's lottery has come up with the goods. Courts is pestering you to open an account, and your skiing plans are no longer limited by money worries. All you have to do now is decide what kind of skiing you'd really like to indulge in. In case you're short of them, here are some ideas.

adventurous skiing and with no interest in après-ski indulgence, there is no question about what comes top of the agenda: helisking in the Canadian rockies. Canadian heliskiing has three key components: helicopters to provide uplift, huge quantities of powder snow, and deserted mountain ranges on which the snow can fall and on which the helicopters can land. This simple recipe produces the closest thing to paradise for a competent skier.

Note that I do not say expert or athletic skier, Helisking need not involve steep slopes and, thanks to the recently introduced "fat" skis, does not even need the level of skill that you would normally associate with off-piste skiing in the Alps. If it did, it would not attract nearly so many wellheeled middle-aged skiers.

The companies that run these heli operations have their own lodges deep in the Rockies, where you are billeted in comfort but not luxury for the duration of your stay. Each day, the chopper ferries your group of around 10 people up to a remote slope of virgin snow, retrieving you at the end of the run and depositing you For those with a taste for at the top of another. And so on, until you use up your allotted "vertical" – at which point you

> start buying more uplift. At least, that's the theory. It is possible, of course, to encounter a week's blizzards in which the choppers are grounded, and you get a great opportunity to improve your backgammon skills or write the first couple of chapters of your novel. You just have to hope that you don't.

reach for your credit card and

Canadian heliskiing is dominated by two outfits, both with UK agents. CMH operates from eight lodges, mostly in remote settings. Each accommodates 44 skiers - rather like a large catered chalet in the Alps, with open fires to reinforce the mountain lodge atmosphere and comforting extras such as a sauna, the three central five-stars in St

Mike Weigele operates from a swanky alternatives in other Swiss Right now, Canadian heliskiing is a bit of a bargain because of the weak dollar. Reckon on £2,500 to £3,500 a week - more if you do a lot of extra vertical.

Heliskiing is all very well, but

it does put the emphasis very

much on the activity of skiing, and not at all on the pampering that can go with it when the budget allows. For a sharp contrast the sharpest there is - the topflight hotels of Switzerland take some beating. Opposite this page you'll find a beginners' guide to the smartest hotels in St Monitz the greatest concentration of upmarket lodging in the known universe. What these hotels offer is not so much luxurious variations on the usual Alpine accommodation as a kind of complete insulation from the harsh winter world outside. Apart from the stunning views from the windows, once inside you could be

almost anywhere. You don't even need to go to the trouble of booking such hotels yourself. Get hold of the Inghams brochure and you'll find not only

bigger central base at Blue River. resorts - notably Zermatt's Zealand - the last two coming on Grand Hotel Zermatterhoff and further afield. Even the favoured Alpine retreat of the makes most sense if you combine Princess of Hearts, for example the Ariberg in Lech. Half-board high-season one-week packages run from £1,400 to £2,150.

Smart hotels mean conforming to the expectations of fellow guests if not to the rules of the establishment. Privacy is the key to real self-indulgence, and that means private lodgings with servants attached. And lodgings don't come any more private than Trapper's Cabin, high on the ski slopes near Vail and reachable only by ski or snowcat. The idea here is that you get to spend the night in complete (and splendidly luxurious) isolation, but don't have the chore of self-catering: the chef skis away after dinner. The place sleeps 10, and costs \$550 per person per night.

There is skiing beyond the horizons of Europe and North America, and some of it is very worthwhile. Your newly enlarged budget will not prevent you exploring the intensive resorts of Japan, the high and scenic ski Jacuzzi and in-house masseur. Moritz, but also some equally areas of South America, and the

heliskiing potential of New stream during our summer, of course. This sort of expedition it with some regular tourism or visits to long-lost relatives, and could easily soak up several thou-

sands of those spare pounds. Wherever you decide to blow your winnings, you'll want to look the part. Chain-store clothing won't do. For your heli outing you'll want the toughest "technical" kit in order to look the part - perhaps £550 for an outer shell from The North Face and £300 for fleecy layers. For posing in St Moritz, a Bogner one-piece can cost you anything up to £1400.

Helisking: CMH - contact Powder Skling in North America 0171-736 8191; Mike Wiegele - contact Fresh Tracks 0181-875 9818 or Ski Scott Dunn 0181-767 0202. For an Inghams brochure call 0181-780 4450. More details about Trapper's Cabin near Vail on 00 1 970 845 5788. For kit information start with Snow + Rock's catalogue – cail 01932 569569

Well, *Hello!* Fancy seeing you here

Who skis where. By Charlotte Packer

hile Prince Charles and his retinue remain faithful to Klosters, other members of the Royal family have looked further afield for their skiing thrills. Diana has discovered the joys of Lech in Austria, and two years ago she kicked up a flurry of excitement when she hit Vail (the cod Swiss skiing village in Col-orado favoured by Tom Hanks and John F Kennedy), and pro-voked much speculation about a romance with a local businessman. The Princess Royal skis at Morzine in France, and Prince Edward, longtime fan of St Anton, has been seen on the slopes of Whistler in British Columbia. But for Fergie, the comparative peace at Klosters has become an increasingly attractive alternative to her pre-Andrew haunts of glitzy St Moritz

The popularity of Swiss ski resorts with the international jet-set has probably more to do with the country's excellent banking facilities than its skiing conditions and Royal patrons. Gstand is renowned for its unpredictable snowfall and yet boasts a strong celebrity following. David Bowie, Blake Edwards and Julie Andrews, and Roger Moore - none of whom are noted for their skills on the piste - all have homes there. Meanwhile Elizabeth Taylor has graced Zermatt with her presence, though whether she was there for the skiing, the shopping or the socialising is not known.

Italian resorts don't seem to attract many famous faces, but devotees include Julia Carling and Claudia Schiffer, who was apparently assaulted by a man wielding a bobble-hat while she was staying at Colfosco in the Dolomites. For classy après ski sessions, and a spot of alternative royal watching, you could head for Austria where Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and obscure Swedish Royals are said to squeeze into their salopettes and slip on their skis alongside the likes of Peter Gabriel and Kim Wilde.

Over in the States, Aspen has long been the favourite resort of the Hollywood set, and this is the time of year to catch the likes of Jack Nicholson, Don Johnson, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Cher, Harry Hamlin, Steven Spielberg, Martina Navratilova and Barbra Streisand, on the piste. It was rumoured that Hugh Grant was looking for a second home here, presumably won over by talk of Aspen's divine landscape.

Back in the Forties the great and the good of the film industry would have packed their skis and headed for Sun Valley, Idaho. Here you might have gawped at the likes of Gary Cooper, Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. These days the resort is back in favour with Hollywood and Sigourney Weaver, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Clint Eastwood and Bruce Willis have all been spotted going through their paces. Should a celeb hunt in Sun Valley prove fruitless, the automated snow system, which is one of the largest in the world, will at least guarantee plenty of snow and good skiing.

Working its way up in the popularity stakes is Telluride in the spectacular San Juan Mountains of Colorado where Sylvester Stallone has a ranch, and Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman got hitched five years ago. The nearby Beaver Creek resort is the haunt of Gerald Ford. Dan Quayle, Oprah Winfrey and Brooke Shields.

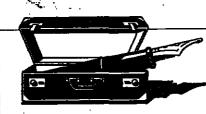
For Ivana Trump, one time Czech National Ski Team member, nowhere beats the Bugaboos in Canada, and she should know as she's skied at all the key European and North American resorts. She, like John Denver and King Juan Carlos of Spain, is a keen fan of heli-skiing.







The Aspen set (from top): *LA Law'*s Harry Hamlin: Kurt Russell (right) with Danny Sullivan; and Martina Navratilova. Photographs: Colorific!



something to declare

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Bargain of the week

Travellers between the West Country and London are finding weekend journeys difficult because of the rail line being closed between Reading and Swindon. But a price war among bus operators on the M4

Trouble spots

This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

Corsica: "Since November, there has been a series of bomb attacks by extreme nationalists on public buildings throughout Corsica. The attacks seem to be increasing in intensity. Take reasonable care in the vicinity of public buildings."

Guatemala: "Violent crime is prevalent throughout Guatemala, especially in and around the capital and other tourist areas. Muggers are often wellarmed. Do not attempt to resist when being robbed. Register with the British Embassy on arrival (321601) for an update on the current

Mali: "Mali is relatively trouble-free. Although travel to Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao is possible, caution should be exercised in the area north of . Mopti where banditry is still a risk".

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Ugly, polluted, corrupt. Amazing

Peking is full of contradictions. Follow the tour guides and you'll miss the point. Teresa Poole should know. She lives there

typical China package tour, Western visitors to the capital city tend to wake up suffering from 'Jet-lag Peking duck Syndrome". It marks the first of many victories to be aimed at brushing up the scored by China over unwary foreign tourists.

The idea seems to be to exhaust the city's visitors into submission at an early stage. Within 48 hours of arriving, the tour group will have been marched through Tiananmen Square, around the Forbidden City, up the Great Wall and down again, and herded through the Ming tombs. The Peking duck banquet, in all its greasy splendour, represents the final assault on the innomembers awake the next morning feeling their stamina already drained and wistfully remembering how a trip to Bali.

That is when the more robust might profitably decide that a tour-group missing the point. Peking's with those in South-east Asia, the food on offer to tourists is mostly dreadful, and there is none of the Asian capitals.

Peking is an ugly, polluted, corrupt city whose population has a developed sense of disdain for for-Peking is also, arguably, the most extraordinary capital in the world, the political control and capitalist freeconflicts and annoyances, where sometimes it seems that the only Asian value left is an insatiable desire for money.

voiced by Pekingers themselves. Of course, visit the (try the Landao depart-Great Wall, but it is the country's most recent history that will leave the deepest national retail spending impression on any visitor who makes a bit of an effort. Most Western tourists arrive already aware of the con- if you can resist the tradictions. They remember the graphic TV pictures of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown when the Chinese army stormed through Peking killing unammed protesters. Yet, since then, the "story" from China has been one of unprecedented eco- major national pastime. nomic improvement, streets jammed with imported saloon cars, a real-estate development bonanza, and an export industry that has suddenly put "Made in China" labels in products

across the world. That contrast is precisely what makes Peking such an complain heatedly about the traffic. Yet watch, for a moment, how many of the fanciest cars carry the telltale white number-plates unidentifiable mouthful.

n about day three of which identify them as military or People's Armed Police vehicles. Marvel at the city's traffic police who, about six weeks ago, metamorphosed overnight into human robots. It was part of a propaganda exercise image of the police. Now they stand on their podiums, choreographed into perfect uniformity, never an arm bent out of line.

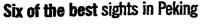
It is in Peking's lanes - or hulongs - that you can glimpse the old world of the city. Around Houhai Park, or to the east of Dongdan shopping street, you can wander down any lane, and the challenges of modernising such a city immediately become apparent. These are the traditional cents abroad. Tour group courtyard homes, picturesque from the outside but on the inside usually desperately crowded and lacking in such luxuries as they spurned the option of toilets. Look into the yards to see the bizarre mixture that makes up many family's lives: the inevitable bicycles, a wall of cabbages holiday in China is rather stored during the winter, and in the main room statetemples cannot compete of-the-art television and karaoke equipment.

On a Sunday, head for one of the city's parks, per-haps Beihai or the Temple opulence of many other of Heaven, for the most romantic view of Peking life. Soon after dawn, bluesuited old men will arrive, carrying their songbirds in cages which they hang in eigners. Yet that is part of the trees. For hours they the reason to come. For play chess, or sit idly talking. Throughout the early morning, local Pekingers turn up to take their daily centre of a country that 16 exercises. In my local, Ritan years ago decided to re- Park, old women exercise invent itself using a their brains (they say) by melange of Communist walking backwards, Chinese of all ages practice for-all. Off the tourist trail, shadow boxing and other life is a bundle of contra- martial arts, and one group meet for disco keep fit.

This is, of course, not the modern Peking hurtling down the expressway of These are complaints economic reform. For that, visit a big shopping centre ment store or the Honggiao indoor market), and see a spree in action. Wander through the outdoor mar-ket of "Silk Alley" and see advances of the hawkers selling pirated CD-Roms from southern China for a fraction of the cost back home. Bravely go where few Westerners dare to tread - a Chinese karaoke lounge, and witness the

not retreat to some hotel restaurant where the menu is printed in English. The Chinese, for all their nationalistic fervour, are at their most tolerant in situations involving food. Pick any brightly lit restaurant, order a round of Peking draught interesting city. Most beers (Beijing jia pi), and foreigners, for instance, point to a few key words in the Chinese phrase book. It will probably taste awful, but the look on everyone's faces will be worth every

If it all gets too much, do



The Great Wall: Not to be missed. Those with sturdy legs and knees should head for the wall at Simatai, while anyone who might need a cable-car ascent is best off at Mutianyu.

The Summer Palace: On the north-west side of Peking, the gardens are beautiful in summer and winter. On the return journey into the city, try to stop off at some of the traditional villages near the old city moat.

Mao's Mausoleum: He looks like wax, and from time to time there are reports that he is leaking, but the Chairman's body stays where it is because it would be far too politically sensitive to move him. You can stock up on tacky Mao memorabilia by the exit.

Prince Gong's Palace: An unusually quiet retreat north of the gives some idea of what life was like for the well-connected before 1949. Forbidden City. The gardens are very peaceful, and the palace

The Pearl Market: Situated on the third floor of the Hong Qiao indoor market, on the north-east comer of the Temple of Heaven. Head for a vendor called Ms Bai at stalls 113 and 123, provider of freshwater pearls and semi-precious jewellery to Mrs Thatcher (complete with framed photograph).

Chaowai Antiques Market: Near the north-west corner of Ritan Park, these two warehouses offer a selection of Chinese knick-knacks, and a few real antiques. Never mind if it is a modern copy or an outright fake, just bargain very hard. (True antiques cannot be exported from China without the necessary



Never out of line: 'about six weeks ago, Peking's traffic police were turned into human robots'

How to get there

British Airways and Air China fly non-stop twice a week between London Heathrow and Peking, but the lowest fares are available from discount agents for travel on other airlines. For example, Campus Travel (0171-730 8111) has a fare of £493, including tax, on Air France from London, Birmingham, Edinburgh or Manchester via Paris.

How about by rail?

Regular trains operate between Moscow and Peking, with connections from western Europe and to Hong Kong. Most travellers make the week-long journey only in one direction, and fly the other. A basic round trip comprising a flight from London to Moscow, train to Peking and onwards to Hong Kong, with a flight back to London, would cost around £750 through companies such as Bridge the World (0171-911 0900), Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711) and the Russia Experience (0181-566 8846). There are endless these can add substantially

How tangled is the red tape?

British passport holders need a Chinese visa, which is most easily obtained through the China Travel Service, 7 Upper St Martin's Lane WC2H 9DL (0171-836 9911); this agency charges £10 on top of the normal £25 fee. Allow a week for processing. You can obtain a visa more quickly in Hong Kong if you are travelling via the territory, and pay only HK\$100 (about £8). There have been some reports that the documents of British visitors are being checked especially assiduously by Chinese officials because of the political differences over Hong Kong.

What about flights to Hong Kong?

Air fares are generally lower to Hong Kong than direct to China. STA Travel (0171-361 6262) has a fare of £487 on Emirates via Dubai. Numerous travel agencies in Hong Kong make arrangements for China: Phoenix Services (00 852 2722 7378), based in Kowloon, will arrange tickets



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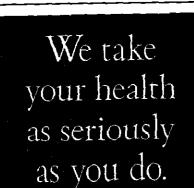
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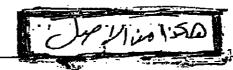
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## There's the sensible route to Macau

...and then there's the route that Simon Calder took

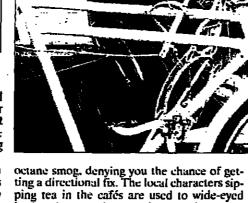


Once you've reached Macau, trishaws are your best bet for transport Photograph: Robert Harding

he opening of the new airport in Macau means there are now two sensible ways to get to the former Portuguese colony 60 miles due west of Hong Kong: by sea, or by air. I went by land. You might pos-sess a residue of classroom French and German, a smattering of holiday Spanish, and even have mastered the Cyrillic characters of the Russian alphabet, but when you cross the thin red line from Hong Kong into China, you become a mute stranger in the strangest of lands.

Hong Kong's suburban rail network ends at Lo Wu, a small, sweaty settlement that would be wholly unremarkable were it not the front half of the main valve between the planet's most populous country and the rest of the world. Every few minutes, a train wheezes to a halt and disgorges hundreds more passengers. Hop over a series of official hurdles, and you suddenly find yourself ejected into the middle of a seething city. From being the cosseted tourist a few min-

utes ago, you are transformed into an alien. All the clues that you normally use to orient yourself are useless in this part of the Orient. Look for a landmark or a street name to get your bearings, and all you see is a scrabble of graceful but impenetrable Chinese characters. Even the sun shelters behind a layer of high-



backpackers carving a trail of bewilderment through Shenzhen, so you barely merit distraction from the synchronised pecking at snacks. Elevenses already, and you still have to cross China.

Yet all you are really trying to do by teatime is to clip a tiny corner of a huge country, a journey of no more than 100 miles. And to make life easy, this is the most prosperous and advanced part of China. Shenzhen City is the high-rise hub of a Special Economic Zone that borders Hong Kong and thrives on the same enterprise culture. Sooner or later, a besuited businessman will take pity on the confused tourist and steer you towards the right bus.

At about the point on the bus ride when you guess that the broad city street must finally dissolve into a country road through profoundly green fields - it accelerates into a motorway, speeding straight to Guangzhou. The route to Macau, though, slips off to the left and the town of Humen. You get tipped out of the bus into the care of another well-spoken entrepreneur. who quits his mobile phone for long enough to steer you in the direction of the town's official

Compared with the attractions en route, the historic monument of Humen is something of a side-show. But as the clock on Britain's lease of the New Territories ticks towards its 1997 expiry, the site acquires poignancy. In 1839, an uprising against the British drug barons forced them to hand over a huge consignment of opium, which was burnt on this very riverbank. But four years later the British forced China to allow them to build a fort on the site, to help them re-establish the trade in opium that made rule from London so hard to shake off.

Any traces of Anglicisation were extinguished during Mao's rule, so again you must seek help to set you on the next stage of the journey. A single bus, it appears, will take you almost to the frontier of Macau.

Buses get a poor press compared with the praise heaped upon trains, but this one would be a contender for any collection of Great Bus Journeys of the World. Not for the vehicle itself, a rudimentary beast that had clearly done this thousands of times before. Nor for the roadside scenery, a pleasant but unexceptional collage of agriculture and activity. The thing that makes this an amazing journey is the crossing of the Pearl River. The inevitable new bridge over this three-mile

long enough to roll off one cargo of buses and trucks and roll on the next. From the deck, make the most of this unexpected boat trip to

face of the muddy Pearl. The last leg of the bus ride whisks you down the far side of the estuary, the skyline climbing

and ugly, perform the most graceful marine

dance. They deftly side-step one another as they

shuttle back and forth, each one pausing only

survey the frenzied shuffle and admire the fine

embroidery that the wakes create on the sur-

portion to the proximity of capitalism. The bus terminates some way from the border, but the improbably bulky luggage of your fellow passengers marks them out as transit travellers. You follow the procession of stripy red/blue bags

bulging with cheap exports to the frontier.

Departure from the People's Republic is smoother than arrival, allowing you to slalom rather than stutter past the bureaucracy. You emerge into a strangely familiar post-colonial cityscape, joyful to be a regular tourist once more. Never has a former Portuguese outpost

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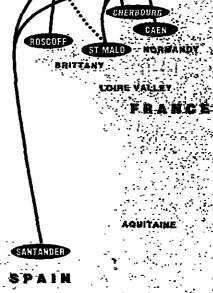
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The British car had a wretched 100th birthday. The misguided Coventry Cathedral service was cleverly hijacked by the naked body of the environmental campaigner Lucy Pearce, shortly before she returned to an anti-road protest in Devon (by car).

Endless stories ran about how many people had been killed/maimed/poisoned by cars. A Guardian columnist, while admitting that most people liked their cars, said that our transport future was post-car, "in which cleaner, well-designed public transport can whisk us around and between cities". Really? And what happens if you don't live in a city? Even the right-wing Spectator, whose principles should be perfectly in line with car use, has started a "Not Motoring" column.

Yet of course the car will survive the next 100 years. Private transport of 2096 will, undoubtedly, be nothing like that inefficient tin box parked outside your home. That is what the anti-car brigade fail to understand: they underestimate just how much better private transport can and will get. It will, because it must.

The more rabid environmentalists argue that because private transport is highly polluting, it is best to return to what we had before: public transport, suitably modbetter buses and trains, and bicycles. No doubt play a big part. And in some areas, such as cities, perhaps they should play the only cities, perhaps they should play the only part. But does anybody seriously think British people will happily return en masse to queuing at bus stops? We had that once, and rejected it when cars became affordable.

Because people will always want private transport so the car industry will provide it.

transport, so the car industry will provide it.
And because people will demand it, those
future cars will be clean and safe. The petrol internal combustion engine will continue to get cleaner, because it must. By the turn of the century it should even start to purify polluted inner-city air. But we'll have to wait for the wholesale use of natural gas or similar (in 15 to 20 years probably) to get massive air quality improvements. Cars will also become different from each other. Within 20 years, they will not all be boxes of steel, which nowadays differ principally in styling. Cars will come in all shapes and sizes and will be both lighter and stronger than those today, and bespoke city cars, twin- or even single-seaters, may be a feature.

To campaign against the car as an institu-tion is a mistake. There will always be private transport, in some form. The campaign should be to make the car safer and cleaner; to revolutionise it, not to kill it.



The car may be ordinary but the campaign is extraordinary.
That'll be the Daewoo. By Matthew Gwyther

will try anything to sell cars. The latest "shirt-off-my-back" marketing wheeze from Korean con-tender Daewoo is to offer 100 free vehicles to punters who can come up with the most gory tales of maltreatment at the hands of other producers. Customer care, runs Daewoo's message, is our business - we want to learn from rivals' mistakes. Our aim, it says, is to be the M&S of the car world.

Right from its launch into the UK last April, Daewoo has adopted a novel approach to shifting metal. The company organised a huge market research exercise to find 200 "guinea pigs" who would each receive a free sion. car for a year to help Daewoo tailor its service and products. Around 180,000 hopefuls applied and each was sent a detailed questionaire to

car buying.

Car salesmen have rarely enjoyed a good press down the years - the snake in the sheepskin easing around his forecourt and off-loading his "lovely little runners" is one of the oldest stereotypes going. Even so, Daewoo's findings were spectacularly damning: customers apparently rated car salesmen "marginally higher than serial killers". Pushy, intimidating and patronising were some of the kinder adjectives. 63 per cent felt they had been worked over in a "hard sell" and 78 per cent found they had been treated worse after buying the car than when making the original deci-

It is hardly news that the weak link in keeping the customer satisfied has always been the dealers rather than those who actually make the cars.

n a slow market, manufacturers discover their likes and dislikes about Few cars rust or rattle any more and many look physically similar. So how buyers are treated is fast becoming a vital point of differentiation.

BMW, for example, cottoned on to this some while back.

"Most manufacturers have been "Most manufacturers have been pouring money into the dealer network," says Patrick Farrell, Daewoo's marketing director who was poached from Rover. "It's all persuasion and cajoling but a lot of effort has been wasted. I can remember amazing tales from my time at Rover. For example the occasion when a purchaser took a new car away with just a cup of petrol in it, went on to the motorway and ran out of fuel. He phoned the dealer who charged a £70 call out fee when he arrived with the

fuel can." To avoid any such nightmares Daewoo decided it would keep close control of the process by trying direct selling. The company ditched the idea of a franchised dealer network and set up its own permanent car supermarkets called Motor Shows and Car Centres, a highly expensive exercise. We knew right from the start that we'd touched a nerve in the UK market," says Mr Farrell. "When you say to the average Brit that you "cut out the middle man" it tends to work. We're very into bargains here."

Having publicly clambered aboard the customer care bandwagon with a totally unknown and untried product. Daewoo knew that it would have to provide an after-sales service second to none. Each car came with a three year warranty, three years' free servicing with home pick up and courtesy car, RAC membership, 12 months road tax, no delivery fee and a 30 day money-back offer. The only catch was that there was to be no haggling over

To broadcast its arrival, Daewoo hired Duckworth, Finn, Grubb. Waters, an advertising agency based in Soho, London. They came up with a quirky strategy notable for a lack of glamorous women, long shots of winding roads or tyres dramatically spitting gravel. To overcome the "Daewho?" problem it adopted the self-deprecating biggest car com-pany you've never heard of slogan. The latest television effort has an elderly lady in a crash helmet running into a wall.

Daewoo was received with considerable cynicism in the trade. However, doing things in such an unconventional fashion appears to have worked. Daewoo is the most successful car launch ever, going from zero to 13.169 sales in eight months. This makes the company 17th in the

list of 43 manufacturers and already ahead of well established companies such as Mazda. Campaign. the advertising industry magazine, recently awarded Daewoo its Advertiser of the Year prize.

It's maybe as well that all the attention has been focused on how Daewoo sells its cars rather than the vehicles themselves. The two Daewoo models on offer - the Espero and Nexia - are slightly frumpy re-workings of the age-old Cavalier and Astra which have been loaded with desirable extras such as air conditioning. Daewoo make no bones about the product. "It's a bread and butter car, says Patrick Farrell.

Basic transport for people who don't care about the emotional side of motoring. Our purchasers are rational whereas a large number of

new car buyers aren't.

So who has been seduced by the Daewoo message? What is the average customer profile? Charlie Dawson, the account director at Duckworth. Finn, Grubb, Waters has a pretty good idea in his mind's eye: "I suppose a teacher with two kids who is bright but not rolling in it. They don't see a car as a status symbol." Canny, careful folk maybe, but not quite as thick skinned as a Lada or Proton driver.

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## A way out of the trap

Builders are persuading owners to part exchange their difficult-to-sell houses for new ones, just like trading in a car. So why aren't estate agents doing the same? By Anne Spackman

state agents may wince at the idea, but they could well profit from being more like the second-hand car dealers to whom they are often disparagingly compared. If you rwant a new car you are very likely to trade your old one in part-exchange. If you want a new house, it is increasingly possible to strike a similar deal with a builder. Why then, in the second-hand property market, where one third of all sales collapse and buyers find themselves stuck in long chains, don't estate agents adopt the same tactic? Some already are. Halifax Property

Services, for example, will allow their branches to take a house in partexchange as long as it fits certain criteria. But they are not exactly shouting this from the rooftops. Meanwhile, independent agents cling loyally to the tradition that they are acting as agents for the seller, for whom they must achieve the best possible price, rather than acting to achieve a deal and get the whole system working.

Part-exchange has proved to be a cru-cial weapon in the house builder's armoury over the last few years. Many expect it to continue beyond the recession. It attracts buyers who might otherwise ignore a development and offers a solution to the many thousands of homeowners who find it hard to sell. They may lose a bit on the price of their old home and be forced to pay full whack for the new one, but that has always been the deal with cars and thousands of drivers have felt it was a price worth paying.

The ground rules for part-exchange are common to most builders. They will only take on houses worth less than the one they are selling and in most cases the minimum price gap is about 30 per cent. So for a new house costing £150,000, they may take on a £100,000 house in exchange, but not one worth £200,000, rew builders will touch any property with structural defects, or those previously owned by a local authority or part of a sheltered housing scheme. They also prefer to take on homes in the area of their new development. Barratt and Try Homes are two of the few builders willing to do partexchanges across country.

Terry and Susan Maskell had the sort of complicated arrangement many builders might baulk at. They had two houses to sell, one near Glasgow, bought when Mr Maskell's job mayed north, and a house in Heathfield, Sussex, where his family stayed. Try Homes took on both in exchange for the Maskells buying a new five-bedroom house in Heathfield. They sold the Maskells' old Sussex house immediately.

"The convenience factor decided us." Mr Maskell said, "even though we were potentially losing a few thousand pounds. Also, if we hadn't done it we might have lost this house and there are very few houses like this around here."

Brenda Grover and Tom McGuire from Reading did a typical part-exchange deal. They traded in their £36,000 one-bedroom flat – which had been on the market for 18 months - for a three-bedroom house costing £104,995 on Barratt's Saxon Chase development at nearby Caversham. "It was our only way out of the trap we found ourselves in," said Brenda Grover. "Without part-exchange we wouldn't have been able to move.

But not all buyers who opt for partexchange are in such desperate circumstances. For many it is an option of choice. Sue and Darren Marshall partexchanged their one-bedroom flat in Brighton for a two-bedroom Barratt house in Hove without trying to sell. "We were convinced we would not have much luck trying to sell our flat on the open market," said Darren. "It could have taken years."

David and Sue Blair were looking to trade up from their two-bedroom terrace in Taunton but found nothing they liked on the second-hand market. They narrowed their choice down to two new developments and rejected the one that did not offer part-exchange. "We'd only had our house on the market for a few weeks," said David Blair. "The part-exchange made the deal a lot easier and quicker. It was hasslefree and - most important of all - we liked the house itself."

The Blairs' home was on the market for £47,000. When Admiral Homes accepted it in part-exchange it was valone who had originally been selling the

GA:



Brenda Grover and Tom McGuire outside the new Barratt home for which they traded in their one-bedroom flat

house. This time he valued it at £45,000 as the average estate agent. Half of all "for a quick sale". The Blairs received 97 per cent of the valuation from Admiral and were able to negotiate a few thou-sand pounds off the £84,950 asking price of the new house.

The issue of part-exchange valuations is a thorny one on which the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is about to produce new guidelines. The key to the part-exchange deal is the price. If a builder wants a house valued "to sell quickly", it normally means knocking a there is the benefit of saving on estate agency fees, which for an average house means around £1,200, but they still have to look at the sums and decide whether

or not it is a good deal. Barratt is the most confident exponent sold 3,200 second-hand homes, the same incentives we offer buyers of new some decide to break rank.

London Property

their sales now involve part-exchange deals - even on their most up-market developments such as Royal Thames Crescent in Chiswick, west London. where the houses cost more than

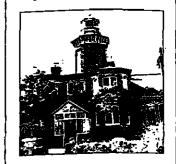
In the case of Brenda Grover and Tom McGuire, their home had been on the market 18 months and Barratt sold it within a week without lowering the price. David Pretty, chairman of Barratt result it sells quickly. Southern Region, says it is not just a technique. "Our offices are open seven days a week, unlike most estate agents," he said. "If we can't sell someone a new house we will try to sell them a secondhand one. If it's looking a bit tired, we might do it up. We get it surveyed. And ued by two estate agents, including the of part-exchange. Last year the company the buyer can take advantage of all the down, it will be interesting to see whether

homes, like help with their deposit." It certainly seems to work. Ben Smith, who runs Halifax Property Services in north and west Leeds, sells plenty of homes that builders have taken in part-

exchange. The property details are branded with the builder's logo and the fact that it is a part-exchange is flagged up. "Buyers see this as a house that has got to be sold," Mr Smith said. "They know it will be keenly priced and as a

So will the practice extend to estate realtors act for the deal rather than for one of the partners involved. In practice many British estate agents do the same. But the long-established names feel their reputation depends on maintaining the status quo. If volumes of sales stay

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Despite more than 13,000 new homes coming on to the market over the next five years, London is heading for a property shortage, according to a Savills development survey. It predicts that unless 5,000 extra homes are built. prices in the most popular areas of the capital will carry on the rise that has seen some homes go up in value by 50 per cent in the last three years. London's prime areas - particularly Kensington, Chelsea and Knightsbridge - have little room for further expansion. Prices in Hammersmith and Fulham are expected to rise as a result of the local council's clampdown on private building. Savills expects the "Midtown" area of Clerkenwell and Holborn to turn from a commercial into an increasingly residential area. But it warns that 70 per cent of all new homes are planned for Docklands, where over-supply threatens to push prices down.

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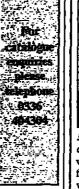
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you have found the key to achieving nomic indicator on which the authorities choose to put heavy disappeared. emphasis in framing monetary polin its traditional manner.

similar applies in the stock market, nomenon is the so-called "small companies" effect. Any finance text peared in the last few years. book will tell you how one of the "anomalies" in stock market behav-

small companies consistently pro- was published this week.

There are times the stock market vided what academics call "excess can be a tough and demanding returns" (ie they outperformed the taskmaster. Just when you think that market as a whole on a risk-adjusted basis), then you would expect supabove-average performance, your ply and demand to see to it that this fail-safe method suddenly ceases to did not last. The flock of buyers into work. In economics, they have known for years about Goodhart's lead to smaller companies being Law, which lays down that any eco-valued more highly-until the scope for outperformance had in effect

So much for the theory, which can icy will immediately cease to behave be best summed up in its vernacular form as "there is no such thing But until recently, not so many as a free lunch in the stock market. people were aware that something The reason it is worth recalling now is that the small company too. The latest example of this phe-effect, which was an observable phenomenon, seems to have disap-

The evidence for this comes from Hoare Govett Smaller Companies iour is the tendancy of small com- Index, a review of the way that the even after allowing for the additional risk involved.

smallest quoted companies on the 29 times, frequently by a handsome around their long-term average, is margin. The cumulative excess a measure of risk. Over the whole onal risk involved.

Over time. It has been compiled for return over the whole period is just a number of years by two highly under 4 per cent per annum. The that according to the theory of regarded academics at London efficient markets, it is not a phe- Business School, Elroy Dimson and nomenon you would expect to see Paul Marsh. Their latest annual recurring for any length of time. If review of the index's performance



#### JONATHAN DAVIS INVESTMENTS

What it shows is that the smaller companies effect is now in fullscale retreat. In the 41 years since 1955, when the data series began. the Smaller Companies Index has outperformed the All-Share Index figures are: All-Share - annualised total return from 1955 to 1995 inclusive 14.2 per cent; Smaller Companies - 18 per cent. To provide a statistically fair comparison, the figures

income, which is assumed to have been reinvested.

But the experience of recent years has been very different. The stockbrokers Hoare Govett started to publish the index on a regular basis in the mid-1980s. For a while all went well. Smaller companies continued to outperform in 1987 and 1988. But in the next four years smaller companies underperformed bigger rivals, and while 1993 was a good year for the minnows, last year was one of the worst of all time. The combinations. total return on smaller companies in last year's bull market was nearly 10 fund management companies that per cent below that achieved by the bave launched unit trusts and invest-

All-Share Index. Just as interesting is what has happened to the volatility of smaller cursing the market's fickleness. company shares. Volatility, the company shares. Volatility, the extent to which prices fluctuate period 1955 to 1995, smaller companies not only outperformed their bigger brethren, but did so without involving investors in any significant extra risk. In fact, they were if anyinvestors hold a diversified portfo-gloomy, it is worth keeping the return to its former glories.

combine capital gains and dividend lio of small company shares, the promise of the investor's Holy Grail: higher return for lower risk.

But even that part of the story seems to be losing its lustre. The volatility of the smaller company index has also increased, to the point where it is marginally more volatile than the All-Share index. So now the prospectus seems to be: a lower return and higher risk. That, if it turns out to be new trend, is hardly the most appealing of

Spare a thought too for all the ment trusts to cash in on the "small companies effect". They must be prised at the turn of events. The fact that the effect has become so well known must be, as efficient markets theory suggests, one of the reasons it no longer works. Another explanation is that smaller companies are better researched and easier to

trade than they were years ago. But before anyone gets too

business in perspective. All such statistical exercises are just that. The composition of the smaller companies index has changed dramatically over the years, reflecting changes in our corporate landscape, so comparisons need to be treated with care. The arrival of the privatised utilities, for example, has tilted the performance scales towards larger companies. The smaller companies index is also relatively top-heavy in sectors such as property and construction, which have struggled.

In other words, it is not difficult to find explanations for the reversal of fortune. Reading between the lines of Dimson and Marsh's latest offering, it is possible to deduce that one bright spark for the sector may be the prospect of takeover activity. The current wave of bids and deals has been largely confined to bigger companies. History suggests it may be the smaller companies' turn next.

But the main worry about the "small companies effect" must be that its disappearance is not widely enough known. Only when we have read its obituary several times can we be sure that it is finally about to

## The grand-daddy of all pensions

Should everybody in work be made to contribute to a national pension scheme? By James Patterson

ing above a minimum weekly amount, will be required by law to contribute to a national pension scheme, unless they are already a member of an occupational pension scheme or are paying at least equivalent contributions into a personal pension.

This is one of the important recommendations published this week by the Retirement Income Inquiry - an independent body sponsored by the National Association of Pension Funds, which for the past two years has been reviewing pension provision in the UK.

It has received a cautious welcome from both sides of the political fence. but could well cause a storm when the implications for individuals and employers are fully understood.

The scheme would rapidly replace Serps, the cost of which falls largely on the taxpayer. But the prospects of a third compulsory deduction from pay packets on top of income tax and National Insurance may well be unpopular with on state pensions.

Contributions would be 4.8 per cent of earnings - the present Serps rebate - between an upper and lower limit on earnings and be split between employee and employer in the case of the employed. But the inquiry also recommends that this contribution rate should be progressively increased to reach a more realistic rate that would provide

very person in work, whether rate of at least 10 per cent of earnings employed or self-employed, earnings has been put forward as the minimum rate required if individuals are to receive a pension of 50 per cent of earnings. An additional contribution of up to 0.7 per cent of earnings would also be needed to fund the transition period while Serps was being phased out.

Individuals could still contribute to personal pension schemes but the national pension scheme could well reduce the role of portable schemes because few employers contribute to employees' personal pension schemes but they would be compelled to contribute to the national scheme.

Contributions paid by each individual would be invested in a variety of assets. mainly equities, accumulated in separate individual funds until retirement when the accumulated value would be used to buy an annuity to provide the pension for the individual.

As with portable pension schemes, the ultimate pension received by individuals from the proposed national pension scheme cannot be guaranteed. e amount will decen cessful the trustees are in investing the assets (presumably the investment management will be delegated to professionals if only to avoid problems with the Financial Services Act) and annuity rates at the time of retirement, over which trustees have no control.

This is in contrast to Serps and company pension schemes, where the pension ultimately received depends only on an adequate pension. A contribution an individual's earnings during his or her

working life and is therefore indepen-dent of stock market/property market performance and of interest rates.

The pitfalls in a scheme dependent on investment performance are many and often unseen until too late. The ultimate pension received by individuals in similar circumstances will vary simply because investment returns were different over their working lives and, equally important, annuity rates were

different when the pension was bought.

The objections to the national pension scheme from individuals could well include being made to save towards their pension, particularly if the contri-bution rate is high and they are under financial pressure such as meeting mortgage commitments, having no control over the investment of those contributions and experiencing a fall in value when the equity market falls, and being utterly confused over buying the annuity at retirement. Men may object to women receiving equal annuities because women live longer than men.

If the ultimate pension from the eme turns out to be low at a particular time because of change the laws of economics. Higher adverse investment performance and/or low annuity rate, there is almost certain to be a massive outcry to make up those pensions from the public purse.

Finally, the inquiry is proposing to end payment of tax-free cash sums from pension arrangements - a logical proposal, but in itself certain to ensure total hostility by the public.

This scheme will do nothing for exist-

ing pensioners on low pensions. The inquiry proposes therefore that there should be a first-tier assured pension equal to the present basic state pension plus a top-up pension to bring the total to a minimum of 20 per cent of national average earnings. This would represent

the absolute minimum pension payable. The basic element of this pension would be paid to all. But the top-up would be means-tested and progressively cut the higher an individual's overall income (capital would be ignored). This proposal may meet equally violent opposition on the grounds of meanstesting, though everyone would have to provide income details before receiving the pension. Any reduction on the topup will also upset people who claim that, because they have paid the full National Insurance contributions, they are entitled to the full pension from the state. Assured pensions will also mean substantially higher National Insurance contributions.

Someone, however, has to grasp the nettle and educate the public in the basic lesson that nobody can repeal or pensions can only be paid for by the working population whether through higher taxes, or accepting lower earnings so that equity dividends can be increased to pay pensions, or both. The alternative is lower benefits.

Many countries are finding this a very difficult message to get across to a hostile public. But it has got to be done, and the sooner the better.



Pension-bound: The idea of compulsory national scheme has won a cautious welcome from both sides of politics





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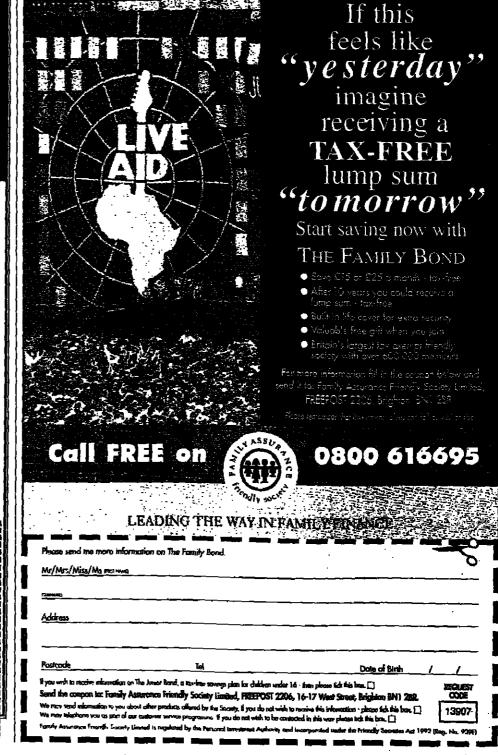
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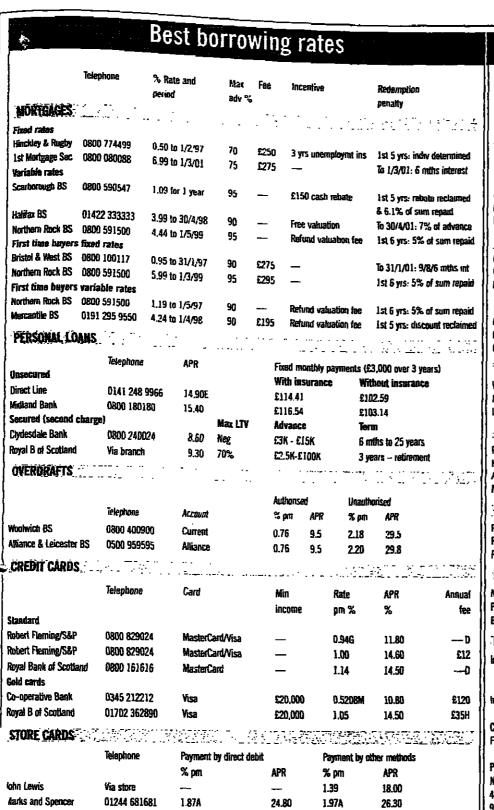
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| Investment Account                                      | · : <del></del>            | 1 month             | .:<br>£20      | £20                                            | 5.25                                     | :: ::<br>Year            |
|                                                         |                            |                     |                | £500                                           | 5.75                                     | Year                     |
|                                                         |                            |                     |                | £25,000                                        | 6.00                                     | Year                     |
| Income Bond                                             |                            |                     | 3 month        | £2,000                                         | 6.50                                     | Month                    |
| -                                                       |                            |                     |                | £25,000                                        | 6.75                                     | Month                    |
| Capital Bond                                            |                            | Series J            | 5 year         | £100                                           | 6.65 F                                   | Maturity                 |
| First Option Bond                                       |                            |                     | 12 month       | 000,13                                         | 6.25 F                                   | Year                     |
|                                                         |                            |                     | _              | £20,000                                        | 6.50 F                                   | Year                     |
| Pensioner's G'teed Income<br>NS Certificates (tax-free) | e Bond                     | Series 3            | 5 year         | £500                                           | 7.00 F                                   | Month                    |
| 43rd issue                                              |                            |                     | 5 year         | 0013                                           | 5.35 F                                   | Maturity                 |
| 9th Index linked                                        |                            |                     | 5 year         | £100<br>£100                                   | 2.50+RP1                                 | Maturity                 |
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#### FEAR OF FINANCE **Clifford German**



It is generally a bad sign when no one wants Imoney, and no one last six months expectations have swung from an imminent increase to further falls in base rates. Building societies in particular are again shaving mortgage rates, especially on fixed-rate loans. before rates fall further. Some of the societies targeted by speculators opening accounts are stuffed with cash they

societies are busy cutting and the rush to put roll- money in the pool. over money into fixedtheir offers with lower rates.

Rates on guaranteed savers who were grumbling about the poor returns on their money last year will be even more disgruntled now.

Even the National Sav- retail trade so far.

ings movement is in on the act. The demand for Pensioners' Bonds paying seems to want to pay for fixed returns for five it at the moment. In the years has been so brisk since the Chancellor cut the age qualification from 65 to 60 in the Budget that he has been able to cut the return on future sales from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

There is also no doubt simply to try to get their that the Treasury will money out on loan save money as a result of that the Treasury will the reshuffle to Premium Bonds and prizes. Although the public is invited to focus on the fact that the number of cannot use in their mort- £1m prizes is not being reduced, the fact is the gage business. reduced, the fact is the Banks and building total prize fund is being cut from 5.2 per cent to rates on deposit accounts 4.75 per cent of the

There is, of course, no rate Tessas has been so guarantee that rates will heavy that the best offers not rise again within the have been fully sub- five-year time-frame of scribed and providers most fixed-rate offers, have been able to replace and for savers the message is clear. The rewards for taking a given amount of risk by investing in annual and monthly fixed-interest securities, income bonds have also unit trusts, investment dropped perceptibly in trusts and shares, espethe past week alone, and cially inside a tax-free PEP package, are on the increase.

Interest rates in the UK after deducting inflation have been uncom-The benefits promised to fortably high for years savers from a reduction but a fall in demand for in the tax rate on interest credit is almost always a and dividends from 25 bad sign. Even the brisk per cent to 20 per cent demand for consumer from April has already credit does not seem to have done much for

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# New plans to care for the elderly are unlikely to keep the wolf from your door

By Clifford German

announced by the Chancellor in the last Budget is likely to be published by Easter. But the proposals are unlikely to take effect before April 1997 at the earliest, and any hopes they will guarantee com-fortable middle-class families against the need to sell their parental homes to pay for care are likely to be dashed.

The proposed partnership between private insurers and the state to underwrite the cost of care in a nursing home is likely to be targeted firmly at families with assets of up to £60,000, including the fam-

dollar guarantees - as used in several American states, notably Connecticut ~ and the time limit scheme that operates in

worth of private insurance protection will be able to ring-fence that amount of assets and claim support from the state once they have used the proceeds of their insurance and run their own assets down to the existing level of protected assets which £150 a month, and a woman £17,500, or appropriate product.

for a specific period, three years in New York, after which the state will take over the full cost of further care indefinitely.

Oliver Heald, a junior minister at the DSS, went to the US last month to study the respective schemes, leading figures in the private health-care insurance business are being consulted and a briefing paper is being prepared for circulation to all MPs.

Lifetime Care, the market leader in the infant private long-term care insurance market, believes the approved UK scheme

port from the state or local authority as soon as their own savings had been run down to the guaranteed level.

The average stay in a nursing home is Dollar-for-dollar schemes work on the only two or three years, but the state guarbasis that individuals who buy, say, \$50,000 antee would allow insurance companies to reduce significantly the premiums on private policies and make private insurance more affordable,

safety net to the taxpayer, state support would be means-tested and the qualifying level at which individuals could claim from the state would be capped at around £60,000 of assets.

That level will be chosen to represent the value of the average house. Investors with larger assets would not be eligible for a pension. In order to fund a wider takethe support on the grounds that they could Peter Gatenby, appointed actuary at PPP afford their own policies or their own care still be necessary for many individuals to

offer any tax concessions to policyholders resources.

The two front-running schemes which the Department of Health and experts on long-term care in the insurance industry are studying are versions of the dollar-for.

The two front-running schemes which the Department of Health and experts on long-term care in the insurance industry are studying are versions of the dollar-for.

Premiums on existing long-term care policies are substantial. For £1,000 a month of support indexed for up to 5 per cent annual inflation, a male aged 45 would pay a lump sum of £6,436, or £30 a month, until a claim is made; for a woman the cost would be £11,310, or £36 a month. At 60 a man would pay £8,695, or £53 a month, a woman £14,640, or £62 a month; and at The protection would be additional to 80 a man would have to pay £11,383, or or they will be allowed to switch to a more

The consultation document on the that figure. Time limit schemes require infuture of long-term care for the elderly dividuals to insure their care costs in full But in order to keep down the cost of the gered by medical need. Even with state the 50- and 60-year-olds - whose need is the most immediate - will run into several thousand pounds.

For most individuals who will qualify for the state partnership scheme their homes are their only significant assets apart from up of private long-term care policies it may osts. earmark their pension lump sum or take
The consultation document will not out an equity release scheme that will require them to surrender some of the eq-

uity in their home to buy a policy. Even if the outline of the Government's proposals are published within weeks and win largely bi-partisan support in the House of Commons, there is a real possibility that legislation could be overtaken by an election and delayed another

two years. Since time is of the essence in taking out insurance policies - and premiums escalate sharply the older the individual is when the policy is taken out - PPP Lifetime Care is actively marketing policies with a guar-antee that if the rules are changed to reflect the introduction of Government support their premiums will be amended.

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fixed rates and discount rates 7.19 per cent with a 6 per cent and a few variable rates. Bradford & Bingley is pio-neering the fight-back by mutual building societies by cutting standard variable mortgage rates to a marketleading 7.24 per cent from 1 March and simultaneously raising savings rates to an average 0.5 per cent above terest penalty is charged for equivalent rates from Halifax redemption within the five. and Abbey National.

Alliance & Leicester has introduced new cheaper fixed-rate mortgages for one, two, three and five-year periods. The one-year rate is 1.95 per cent for up to 95 per five-year before 2002,

forthern Rock is launching a new two-year fixed rate mortgage at 3.99 per cent, or 5.99 per cent fixed for three years, a 6.25 discount on the standard variable rate of 7.44 per cent for one year or ucts, which range from a 5 per a 3 per cent discount for two cent cash-back and no disyears, all with redemption penalties of 5 per cent dur-

down again, with wide-spread reductions in a variable rate mortgage of penalty for redemption in

the first six years. First Mortgage is launching a new five-year fixed rate mortgage at 6.99 per cent for loans up to 75 per cent of val-uation, available until 16 February. A booking fee of £275 is charged and a six-month in-

Pritannia BS is offering Bfirst-time buyers a one-year discount of 2.75 per cent plus a 3 per cent cashback up to £6,000, a refund: cent of loan to value. Re- of valuation fee up to £400 demption fees of six months and free unemployment prointerest will be charged if the tection insurance for a year. one, two and three-year Britannia BS and Winterthur mortgages are redeemed be- Life are offering a two-year fore February 2001, and the fixed rate of 5.99 per cent for remortgages up to 95 per cent . of valuation, with free valuation, no legal fees and a four-

week completion period. General Accident Life has extended the availability of itspackage of Flexi Mortgages, based on Newcastle BS prodcount to a 5 per cent discount and no cash-back.

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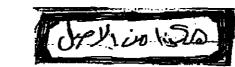
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# Scandinavia is hot. For the moment

Consistent growth is making Finland, Sweden and Norway look impressive. By Alison Eadie

organ Grenfell's European of the UK approach that all share-Growth Trust has a somewhat freewheeling approach to investment. It does not try to outperform stock market indices, but looks for value wherever it can be found on the Con-

tinent and, now and then, in the UK. The result has been impressive. The £640m fund, a unit trust that can be invested in a PEP has outperformed its peers since it was launched in

1988, according to Micropal.

It is first in the European sector over the last five years and second over one year, behind Europa, Morgan Grenfell's European small companies fund. The search for value means whole countries and sectors can be in or out

At the moment Scandinavia is in, particularly Finland. A hefty 40 per cent of the fund is invested in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Peter Young, manager of European Growth, says good-quality, non-cyclical growth companies in Finland are selling at prices of only seven to eight times this year's expected earn-roam, to find value." ings. Cyclical stocks such as paper are selling on only five times this year's earnings. By contrast German stocks are selling on 15 times 1996 earnings and German software company SAP. and French stocks on 13.5 times.

Although Mr Young accepts that German and French stocks are better value than they were - their price-earnings ratios are usually higher - he is wary. For the past year, the fund has held only two stocks in Germany. Its total holdings presently number 65 and 80 is the maximum.

The fund's flexibility is its strength. Mr Young points out that European stock markets are not as developed as those in the UK and US, and information flow is a much more hit-andmiss affair. There are therefore bigger anomalies to be found in valuations of

Fundamental research and company visits are the cornerstone of European Growth's approach. Although information is not automatically dished out, as in the UK, through ever more frequent trading statements, it can still be ferreted out.

Mr Young says Continental companies often give large shareholders innot divulge. Their interpretation of inall investors equally is different. Instead trimmed to 5 per cent of assets.

holders must be told if one is told, Continentals will answer directly to the questioner but feel no obligation to inform the rest. If anyone else were to ask, they would also be told.

The advantage of superior knowledge means there is a temptation to overweight the fund when the opportunities look good. To minimise the price risk, no more than 30 per cent of assets are allocated to one country and no more than 8 per cent to one

stock, says Mr Young. Only two holdings are allowed to reach the 8 per cent ceiling and both must be easily tradeable. As with countries, the fund dips in and out of sectors. It has virtually nothing in the consumer sector at the moment and very little in oil other than a couple of Russian stocks. Two years ago it was heavily weighted in luxury goods and now has a high proportion of computer and high-tech stocks.

Mr Young explains: "As a house we don't like funds with restricted mandates. We like the fund manager to

High-tech favourites include the

The fund topped up on its Nokia holdings when the price recently halved from its peak, and even at prevailing prices is showing a fivefold gain on the purchase price.

SAP has similarly suffered a shareprice bashing after one quarter's bad results. Mr Young points out: "We are in a good position to buy when panic selling sets in as we know the compa-nies so well." SAP's shares, despite their setback, have increased tenfold since the fund first bought them.

Finding value can mean smallish holdings suddenly become very big ones. Mr Young this month found himself selling a large chunk of British Biotech, the fund's only UK holding, even though he believes the share price will continue heading north.

Having bought at an average price of £5 a share, the fund took profits at close to £18.

The spectacular and sudden rise in price meant British Biotech represented 13 per cent of the fund's assets. formation that UK companies would This is against unit trust (10 per cent maximum per stock) and Morgan sider trading laws and the need to treat Grenfell's own rules, so the holding was

Mr Young dismisses fears that its price rise has been overdone. "Forget where it has been," he cautions. "Investment must always be forwardlooking."

As well as successes, there have been disappointments. EVC (European Vinyls Corporation), the joint venture between ICI and Enichem that floated on the Amsterdam stock market in November 1994, has not lived up to expectations. It is presently trading around 50 guilders against an issue price of 77 guilders.

European Growth's eclectic style does not lend itself to narrow specialisms. As a result Morgan Grenfell's 14-strong European team are all generalists. The approach is helpful in controlling risk, says Mr Young.

There is no over-dependency on one person and investment decisions are subject to peer review rather than review by a senior person who may not know the markets as well.

Valuation methods involve looking at balance sheets, free cash flows, priceearnings ratios and other standard analytical tools. Much hangs on whether management is telling a believable

story, says Mr Young.

The outlook for European investment is reasonably healthy, he believes. Despite the slowdown of the last quarter, there is scope for carnings growth

Although there is theoretically plenty of scope for cost-cutting in European companies, Mr Young warns against expecting too much. The strength of social consensus will ensure that employees continue to enjoy a sizeable share of corporate wealth.

"It is almost impossible to exaggerate the degree of cultural difference between the US and parts of Europe. A lot of potential value will never go to shareholders," says Mr Young. This is more true of bigger, older industries, such as metal-bashing, than newer in-

dustries such as computers, he adds. Scandinavia remains the favourite investment market, but the fund will continue to pick and choose in several

Mr Young sees no difficulty with the fund growing in size. "We still have more good ideas than cash to invest."

> European Growth Trust Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M IUT. Telephone: 0171-588 7171



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West Bromwich Building Society has withdrawn its follow-up Tessa offering 7.55 per cent fixed for the next five years "following unprece-three, 7.2 per cent in year four £5,000, 6.1 per cent up to dented demand", and re- and 9 per cent in the final £10,000 and 6.60 per cent up placed it with a 7.35 per cent year. fixed rate.

Tessa available, topping 7.30 per cent at Yorkshire Building Society and Bradford & other providers. Bingley, 7.22 per cent at the TSB and 7 per cent at Barclays Bank.

Leeds & Holbeck BS has launched an escalator Tessa

Ipswich Building Society has increased its rates for (variable) on amounts be-

cent for existing customers, 7 per cent for transfers from Alliance & Leicester has in-

troduced two new investment accounts, which do not qualify for membership of the society, to replace qualifying for maturing £9,000 Tessas. It accounts withdrawn last week. will pay 6 per cent in the first Prime 90 Deposit account year rising to 6.2 per cent in will pay 4.1 per cent on year two, 6.5 per cent in year amounts from £1,000 to three, 7.2 per cent in year four £5,000, 6.1 per cent up to to 325,000 The Tessa deposit

per cent up to £4,800 and 7.25 per cent on the maximum £9,000 rollover account. Skipton Building Society

has increased the minimum investment needed to open a share account which makes the investor a voting member of the society to £2,500.

"This is one decision the society would have preferred not to make, but we have a business to run," Skipton's chief executive, John Goodfellow, said, "The society has account pays 6.1 per cent no intention to convert or be

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#### CINEMA

Heat Michael Mann brings out the big guns of method for a downbeat tiriller that chases Al restoring the savagery to Jorson's satire. A real plant around a stylised Los Angeles.

Indiana around a stylised Los Angeles.

Leaving Las Vegas Mike Figgs returns with a gritty, romantic tale of love and doom in Las vegas. A love story that's not afraid to wallow which would be growing blunt, in sweeps David Fincher to sharpen it up. Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt are the cops investigating a Seven Deadly Sinsinspired killer.

Heat Michael Mann brings out the big guns of method for a downbeat tiriller that chases Al restoring the savagery to Jorson's satire. A real plant in the studies with smiths produced method for a downbeat tiriller that chases Al restoring the savagery to Jorson's satire. A real plant in the studies with smiths produced in an extraordinary mething out distributed. Ballius Russes engander in grant entacoding vields accompanies of the studies with smiths produced in grant entacoding vields accompanies of the studies with smiths produced in grant entacoding vields accompanies of the studies with smiths produced in grant entacoding vields accompanies of the studies with smiths produced in grant entacoding vields accompanies of the studies line. All sales lines with studies lines in the studies with smith produced in grant entacoding vields accompanies of the studies lines. Supplies the savagery to Jorson's satire. A real Diagniles created the Ballets Russes engander in the studies line in the studies line in the studies line in the studies line. In Diagniles created the Ballets Russes engander in the studies line. In Diagniles created the Ballets Russes engander in the studies line. In Diagniles created the Ballets Russes engander in the studies line. In Diagniles created the Ballets Russes engander in the studies line. In Diagniles created the Ballets Russes engander in the studies line. In Diagniles created the Ballets Russes engander in the savagery to Jorson's Stephen Stephen. Shephen Stephen line et

Ryan Gilbev

#### THEATRE

David Benedict

nisiona Revival of Terry Johnson's Eurokal drama. Dubr of York's St. Martin's Lune (9171-8365) 22) & Lusi Sq. Last peris today 3/10&730,455-62-50.

MINER HISSMO Martin Store and Auroz Cartenet stat. Theathe Royal Haymarket. SW1 (0171-930 SW00) & Picc Circ. Mou-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, ends 20 Apr. E10-E26.

Acclaimed production of Priestley's thriller.
Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq. Mort-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.15,
[4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, emb 30 Mar, £9-£24.50.

Rivel Mandaul Theathe Clarics Bilging Michael Gembon in Marthuw Warehus' production, Today 2,00 & 7,15.

Littelive: Wild Bath Anton Lesser in Jerestry Sams' production. Today 2.15 & 7.30.
Consider
Stanley Antony Sher as the great English artist Stanley Spencer. Tonight 7.30.
Obvier & Lyttelion £7.50-£22.50. Cottesion £10-£14-50. Days seass from 10am, South Bank (0171-928-2252) BR/49 Waterhoo.

The Burbican:
Les Estants for Paradis Sumon Callow directs.
Today 2:00 & 7.15.
The Pic
Saughter by Naorani Wallace's award-winner
set in an abaltoris Today 2:00 & 7.15.
Barbican: £6-£24. The Pit: £10-£16. Rarbican. £C2 (0171-638 8891) ◆ Barbican.

numer Starring Ruths: Henshall as Nancy. Landon Pulladuan Argyl Street, W1 (0171-491 9)21:408) & Oxford Circ. Mon-Sa 7:30 [4][7] 2:30. E10-E20.

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#### EXHIBITIONS

critics' choice

#### POP

Catalonia Cracking Welsh cop from an outil who

### CLASSICAL

sampler evening takes the group to Birmingham. | second half, Sadler's Wells, London EC1

concert featuring Nortko Ogewa playing Mozart and Michael Torke's Green. St David's Hall, Carditi: tonight

Martin Best Consort The Distant Lady of the Transactous is the thems for a night of medieval from three viewpoints. The Swan, High passion. Wigmore Hall, London W1; Sun

Robert Maycock

## DANCE

Wycombe; 2 Feb

Emerson String Quartet (above) The admired | Corazon Flamenco continues its disappointing Beethoven cycle continues in London, while a nun Manuela Carresco saves the evening in the Birmingham Symphony Hall, tonight; QEH, The Royal Ballet's season of Steeping Beauty Guillem makes short work of Aurora's technical Goracki it's that Symphony of Somowful Songs | Guillern makes short work of Aurora's technical again - in a BBC National Orchestra of Wales | demands Darcey Bussell shines on Wednesday. Viviana Durante holds her phenomenai balances on Thursday, Royal Opera House, London WC2 ARC Dance Company perform Kim Brandstrup's latest work Crime Fictions, which views a crime

Louise Levene

7 1200

# arts and entertainment listings

## FILM

**WEST END** ACE VEHTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS (PG) The pet descrive returns. Treaden: Mr.M 12.10, 250, 5(0, 7.25, 9.35; Warner West End 12.30, 5:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 12.00 midright ◆ THE REFRICAN PRESIDENT (15) Remainted controlly, Plaza 1300, 3-25, 6300, 8-25

MIGELS MID RISEITS (15) Adaptation of AS Best 5 novel, Peccable MCM 5 40, 8.15; The Minema 3 30, 6.30, 8.45 The Mineria 3.30, 6.30, 8.45

BABE (U) A pig attempts to sword landing up as a Sunder roast Empire Leit Sq. 1.15

4.20, n.31, d.35, 11.30 (Sat); The anders MGM 12.20, 2.35, 4.40, n.55; Plaza 1.15, 3.15, 5.15

B THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15) A modely col-American brothers search for true box and happiness Odeon Mexamine 3.15, 6.21, 8.81

• CARROLLIN (18) A beheman artist gets

CITY OF LOST CHILDREN (15) A man kidnaps © CHISSIN THE (15) Submarine thriller. In-colero MGM Sat 12 (tundingh): Odern Memarine 245, 555, 836 ■ DMGEROUS WHOIS + LS+ Michelle Pfeiffer

■ unsegenous (smus) (5) Wherbille Pleiffer stars, Colom Marth, 476, 575, 675 (ard Surn S. 45, Colom West End. 150, 450), (54), 85), 1145 (56)
■ peril, the Allie Bress (15) A reclamdant World War Two volumn accepts a stranger's offer of work, Comm West End. 1.15 (Sat), 5,0), 6,10, 8,00; Rus, Coloma (2008), (3) (Sat), 200 6.55, 9 (b. 11,20) (Sat)

200 c.55, 9 to 11,2015at)

● File GME (1.5) Supermodel Unidy Crawford modes her acting debut. Imaadon

MGM 12.2, 2.35, 4.45, 7.01, 9.25, Warner

West End 12.30, 2.55, 5.00, 7.00, 9.20, 11.35 FRINELI (15) Buopie of an 18th century energian singer, MCM Swas Centre 258, 435-705-935

THE PLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) A WINDLED IN surrounded by budgering relatives. Curson No. Car 1,15 (Sa), 3,35, 6 (U, 8,20; Gase No. HILL ( 15 (Sat), 3.45, 6.15, 6.45, 11.13 (Sat p er 150, 350, 6 15, 8.40, Ruth Cinema FOUR ROOMS (18) Front mine three, Warner they End 3.20, 8.20 (1), 10

● GOLDENETE (12) James Bond remeasurated 9(f), (200malnehi (Sat), Odo e Hormarki 1.45, 5.40, 8.30, Plane (2.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45 LA HABE (15) Tensions escalate in a group of ethnically mixed terragers. Staffashury Asenue, MCM 240, 550, 850 ● REAT (15) All Pacago and Robert De Nico at

another cop psychopath (hriber Tuxuden) MGM 1.00 5 01, 6.40; Recy Corena 1.00 (Sat), 4.20, 7.50 11,30 (Sat) + Violent Streets (Sat) + Manhanter (Sat) + Last of the Mohicans (Sat): Warner Bies End (2) Oncom. (AU 3-25, 4-9), 739, 845, (U.St.) 1-50. THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15) Eps. 19th conjury adventure starting Indicate Bureche century adventure starring Infectic Bareet Chelsen Cinema 2.31, 5.15, 8.15; Lumiere 2.30, 5.15, 8.15; Rica Cinema 2.50 (Sal).

5.40, 8.30, 11.20 (Sat) ME MINOCERT SLEEP (15) A homeless Liver pudian witnesses a murder. Haymarket MCM 1.30, 3.55, p.30, 8.45; Yea Ci Road MCM 1.45. LIND & FREEDOM (15) Ken Louds's latest, Currur 1.15 (Sat t. 3.4), 6.05, 8.50 2 on Process 1,15 (Sat.), A.M. 619, S.M. 619, G.M. 62 LERRIS LIS VERSS 118 Streat-lead view of the glicey world of Las Veges, Barbican Cineria 3,30 (Sat.), 6,15, 8 Ab Harmanica Min. 110, 3-40, 6,10, 8-40, MGM Stars Centre 1.50, 4,15, 6-40, 9,10; Warner West End 1.3b.

350 6.20, 8.90, 11.20 LYBIG IN DELIVIOR (15) A director experiences

MCM 4.84 4.87 DESCRIPTION (18) An irrespeable man becomes embroiled in the gay community.

MGM Swiss Court 2.10, 4.45, 7.30, 9.45; Tor Cr RA MGM 2.05, 4.25, 7.05, 9.40

IL POSTINO (15) A postman seeks bely from an exhed poet over matters of the heart. Purion Sines MGM 210, 4.20, 650, 9.20 Phylon Street MCM 210, 4-21, 6-50, 4-2) SNRMR (PG) A challfeur's doughter is woodd by rival millionaire brothers. Empire Leicester Square (2-20, 3-10, 5-50, 8-30, 11-15 (Sat); Trocalero MGM (2-10, 3-10, 6-10, 9-00, 12-00midnight (Sat) SEIFH (18) A series of murders stump homicide detectives. Tott Ci Rd MGM 1.20. hometide detectives. For CFRA MCGR 120, 430, 6, 431, 9, 452, Colora Lack & (120000, 250, 550, 845, 11.40 (Sat); Rizey 3, 10, 550, 8, 30, 11.15 (Sat) + 100mmy Suede (tare) SURPSIR TRAD (15) Character gangster thrifter. MGM Swiss Center 153, 4, 25, 6, 50, 9, 20

SHOWERIS (18) A dancer sleeps her way to (ame. Othern West End 1240, 325, 630, 855, 1150 (Sar)

© TI DE FOR (15) Nincle Kalman stars, Paradilly MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30; Lake at Mecanine 2.55, 6.15, 8.40 PRE BIODERICAL III 15) A track driver tries with back his ex-wife. Placer 1.05, 6.15

THE WAR (PC) Kevin Costner teaches his som the context of pacifism. Place 3.15, 8.30 WHEN HIGHT IS FILLING (18) A Christian acade-

THE WHITE BALLOW (U) Iranian tale about a young pri's struggle to buy a goldfish. Renear 1.15, 3.10, 5.05, 7.05, 9.05

Phoenis 300 17.27, Curron West Lina 390 17.22 Empire Lore Sq 0900-880000. Gate Noth Hall 77, 4032; Lumene 379 5014; MGM Haymarket 839 15.27; MGM Panton Sq 0900031; MGM Piccalilly 477, 3501; MGM Shaffesbury Ave 336 6279; MGM Says, Centre 477, 2002 MGM Teu Ci Rd 1030 1479; MGM Trocardem 44 6032; The high (4% MGM) freement we took in Minema, 30 1723; Olden Haymanhat 830 769°; Olden Leie Sq 930 3232; Olden Mar-ble Arth (1/276-9/470); Olden Mezzantie (1/276-9/470); Sarts Carl Olden 19/470-(1/470); Olden West End (20) 5252; Plaza

ana 737 2/2/: Warner West End 457 4843. REPERTORY CINEMAS REPERIURY GREMIAS

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LE Separation (PC) Sat 2.25pm, 5.55pm,

9.15pm; + Trop Belle Pour Ro (18) 4.16pm,

2.55pm; Jules Et Jim (PG) San 12.40pm +

Day for Night (PG) 2.40pm Apocatype

Now (18) San 4.50pm, 8.15pm + Hearts Of

Darkness (18) 5.75pm

ICA GREMA The Mail SWI (0171-930 2647)

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igen Ray Cohn Jack Smith Sal, San Golgen, A. Sym.

BFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928-5252)
The Bridges Of Madison Councy (12) Sat 3-87pm Angels (1) Sat 4-9m The Lady With The Little Day (PG) Sat 6-15pm The Seventh Veil Sat 6-30pm Annie Hall (PG) Sat 5-15pm The Seventh Veil Sat 6-30pm Annie Hall (PG) Sat 6-15pm The Young Presenter's Handbook (15) Sat 8-45pm The Red Shoes (U 18m 3-30pm Angels (U) Sat 4-pm The Bridges Of Madison County (12) Sat 6-15pm The Fridges Of Madison County (12) Sat 7-spm Apacitypes New (18) Sat 7-spm Apacitypes New (18) Sat 7-spm A Matter Of Life And Death (PG) Sat 8-15pm A Matter Of Life And Death (PG) Sat 8-15pm A Matter Of Life And Death (PG) Sat 8-15pm A Matter Of Life And Death (PG) Sat 8-15pm A Matter Of Life And Death (PG) Sat 8-15pm (15) Sat 1-15pm (2-35pm Streets of Fire (15) Sat 2-45pm Spm 7-15pm (2-35pm Streets of Pd) (0171-437 8454) To Wong Fox (PG) Sat 1-15pm Write You

PRINTE CHARLES LetterSet? PT (1) (1-3): 53:51
To Wong Frox (PG) Sur 1.15pm While You
Were Skepping (PG) Sur 3.36pm Waterworld
(12) Sur 5.45pm Charless (12) Sur 8.25pm
Pulp Fiction (18) Sur 10.36pm Carrington
(18) Sur Jam When Night Is Falling (18)
Sur 4.36pm Heavy (15) Sur 6.36pm The
Adventures Of Priscilla. Queen Of The
Day (16) Sur 8.35pm Desert (15) Sun & 45pm

Desert (15) Sun 8-45pm

80 Krigsland High St (4) 711-253 6877)
Pocabonius (UI Sat Hum Orphice (PG) Sat,
Sun 1-45pm + La Belle et la Bate (PG)
3-5pm The Horsertan (in The Roof (15)
Sat, Sun 5-45pm, 8-80pm Panther (18) Fresh
(18) Sat 11-15pm
RWERSIN, STUMBS CHEBB, Crisp Rend Wo
(108)-741-7225)
Once Upon A Time In The West (15) Sat
3-30pm + Once Upon A Time In America
(18) Sat 6-45pm Hantssen San April +
Horse Feathers (UI San 1-30pm The Leopard (PG) San 1-30pm

Horse Feathers (U) Sun (3-hpm The Leop-ard (PG) Sun to 3-hpm WATERHAMS ARTS CENTRE (High Street, Brent-ford TWS 1018; 1-58-1176) Star Trek Generations (PG) Sat 1-30pm Shanghai Trual (15) Sat 6-30pm The Horse-man On The Revol (15) Sat 8-15pm; Sun 6.45pm Fun (1%) Sun Jum + Heavenly Creatures (18) Sun Stanghai Triad (15) Sun Stanghai Triad (15) Sun Stanghai

THE DUCHESS OF HALF

HE SUBS HEMISTRE Tennesser: Williams, tragic druma. Curnely Panion St (0171-369 1731) & Pier Circ. Man-Sat 7.30, [7] 3.00, ends 16 Mar, ES-E23.

ms, falls for a flamboyant of Picculally AfGM 1,50, 6.10

phose numbers

1/17 energy where moted
Burbean Ciments 088 8891; Chelsen Ciments
351 37-2 Curson Mariair 369 1770; Curson
Phoents 369 1721; Curson West End 369

## THEATRE

WEST END CHOICE

Maximes — [1]: Sun. [3]: The, [4]: Pied. [5]: Pus. [6]: Frl. [7]: Sat CUMPAR CHAPTER 1970 Southwist and George Furth musical Dominar Warehouse Eartham Street, WCC

THE FIGURS OF AMERICAN Joel Higgers as a Deep South executiveer. Aldwych Aldrych, WC2 (0171-4 to 6003) & Holbum, Mon-Sar 7-45 (31 Jan. 7-00), [4] [7] 5:00, £12-50-£71 until 30 Jan, then £15-£25-50.

THE USUAL SESPECTS (18) Five known felous plan another crime whilst in custody. Panel Server MGM 206, 430, 700, 925; Phorner Wast End 1.40 (not Sat, Sun), 405, 630.

7 10. 11.30 Paralle (15) A group of women triends berate the lack of eligible men in Phrenix. Arizona. Statischen Avenue MGM 201; 528. 8.15; Transfer MGM 12.15. 3.15, 6.15. 400, 12.00 midnight (Sat; Wirner Rien End 12.50, 3.30, 6.10, 9.00, 11.50

1991 Report Report 837 8402 Report Cin

Jonathan Harvey's Liverpudian love story. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, WI (0171-369) 1747) © Picc Circ. The Sat 810, Sun 7701, [7] 430, [1] 300, ends 3 Mar. 45 CM. Madagaskar Sian San San Jam. Spin. Jam. Apin Ray Cohn Lack Smith San San ta Supin. Sayan. 430L[1]330X ct

TRANSPORTING

In time Worlsh's insight into drug culture.

Include World's World St (0171-650 of 1111 & Leice 5.7 1 30 merfe locker 5.00 & 8.30, 15-116.50. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Alan Bennett's version of Grahame's novel.
(MITE Waterkin Read, SEI (0171-92) 0655) BR @ Waterlook More Sat 7.30, [4][7] 2.50. ends 30 Mar. Ep.75-E24.75 **BEYOND THE WEST END** 

ADOT stores Electera Theatre's 1944 production. Last perf unight 7.34pm. Sun 5.54pm. 49, comes Ed. 1986 Prosto Sano 101 Chet Baker's mysterious death underpins this visual performance press. Last performent 8pm, £65(Leones £6, Last chake Hill, SW 11(0) 71-223 (223) BR: Claphan Junction.

BROOTION SHAW THEATRE, THE BROO The Long & The Short & The Tall Willis Hall's classo wartung drama. Mon-Sut 7.45pm. ends 17 Feb. St. Sti (Mon Et), copes £6.50. Briston Hill, SW2(0)71-274-6470) BR/O Briston.

COCKIDANT THEATRE CHORING THEMES

LIGHT, DINY REARY II BLACK, Minne Theatre's physical look at mined-race relationships. Mon. Sat Spm. ends, 3 Feb. 28,50, Mon. & ones 15, Southampson Row, W.C.J. (017)-242 7040; 49 Hoffson.

CHALL HOUSE Flesh Fly See Crune's Charley, Tomight & Sun

Spin, En. 50, causes El. Kentungton (Wal. SE1) (0171-Se2 7680) & The Ocal PORCELL ROOM

100F. The House Of Bensanta Alba Surreal, clowsurr werken of Lorea's classic Last perfs tomph & Sun Spin, 19, comes 17.50 South Bank Centre (0171-46) 43421 BR- Whterloo.

TROUTE THEORY TO THE OWN THE THEORY THE

The length Book Kipling's stories recreated in a production by Tan Supple. Last perfs today. £14, comes £7.50, The Can. SE1 (0171-928 £143) BR/ & Waterloo.

AROUND THE COUNTRY Basingstoke

ARKETTHEATRE Private Lines Terr discretes honey moon in the same hotel as their old partners. Mon-Su 7,45pm, mais Sat & 7 Feb, 3pm, ends 10 Feb, £6,75-£13,95, cones available. Wore Street

State Plate Cover Experiments In Exile Therate's multi-media production. Last port toolghi Spa. 85-17-50, cours-\$4.50-£6. Manchester Street (01273-670030)

<u>Bristoi</u>

REWING STRONG Med Readors I an Hastings directs Les Smith's adaptation of Deloe's epic. Less perfuouight

Span. E9.50, lignified conce. E5.50. King Street (0017-987 7877) Cheltenham hista Lines Method & Madness's ponchy

Production of Coward's marital comedy.
Last perfs today 2pm & Spm. £4.50-£13.50,
concs available. Regent St (01242-572573) **Dawlish** LEISTRE LENTRE The Tennest David Thacker directs, Last oct

tonight 7.30pm, F7-£14, concs available. Sandy Lune (01626-863873) Guildford

Promise developming Carol Drinkwater state in Barry England's 1980a India channa. Last peris today 2-30pm & Spm. £10-£19-50, conts available. Millbrook (U1483-440000) loswich

WOLSEY THEATRE Virtuese Study of the mental instability of the prints genius Juhn Ogdon, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sai Spm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sai Ayan, ends 10 Feb. £7.51-£12.50, concessions available. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

Norwich NORMACH PLATHORSE The Rise and Fall of Lattle Voice Jian Curtwicht's The lates and read cannot seen June Carrongum S hauming play with songs, directed by Heary Burke, is the new Norwich Playhouse's second production. Last perfs today 2-30 pm & Spm. C3-£11, comes realiable. St. Creonge's Street (01603-706466)

Peterborough

agr materian.

Bell Ruth DGM Productions present a new version of the 1950s rock'n' roll show. Last perfs rodsy 5pm & Spm. EX-50-E11, comes realiable. Embankment Read (01733-52439)

THE MILL AT SOMOTHS How The Other Half Lows There couples' marriages are dissected in Ageidoum's comody. Tue-Sat 8, 15pm, mats Sat 2,15pm, ands 24 Feb. £18,95-£29,95 inc diamer. (0) 754-698(00)

Stratford-upon-Avon 工业 阿伊加斯

odcian Women Kaule Mischell directs Europides' timeless tragedy about war brusality. Last perfs today 1,30pm & 7,34pm. £13-£17, cross available. Southern Lane (0)789-295023)

NOTE: SUMPENSE WEIGHT

ROPAL SHAPESPESSE WEIGHT

Robot III David Troughton heads Surven

Production of Shakespesse's brutal
political drama. Loss peris today 1.30pm &
7.30pm &
7.30pm &
6.642, standing 14.50-15, cones
available, Watersale (0) 789-295623) crastle (01789-195623) THE REAL PROPERTY.

Fast Howard Bremon's version of Goethe's epic drams about temptation. Last perfi-today Part 1, 5pm: Part 2, 7,30pm, £8,50-£28,50, cones available. Waterside (01789-298e21)

Watford

PALACE THEORY Health High Oxford Stage Company's fresh Scholassoner's carnedy, 23-25 Jan. version of Shakespeare's cornedy, 23-25 Jan. 7,45pm, 28 & 27 Jan. 8pm, mats 24 Jan. 2,30pm, 27 Jan. 3pm, £4-£14.75, cones available. Clarendon Road (01923-225071)

#### **EXHIBITIONS** Cambridge

RETILES VIRO William Richelton Landscapes and still lives. The Sat 12-Whore-5-Jüpen, Sun Jenn-5-Jüpen, ends 25 Feb, phone for details. Castle Street (01223-352124)

Exeter SPACEL GALLERY

granden Gaudy, sery, banal paintings, Tite Sai Ham-Spin, ends 17 Feb, Irec Preaton Street (01392-431766) London BARBICIAI ART GILLERY Diagniloy: Creatur of the Bullets Russes Sec Critic's

Clevic: Men. Wed-Sat 10am-6-15pm, The 10am-5,45pm, Sun 12amon-6,45pm, ends 14 Apr. 15, cones £3. Silk Street, EC2 (6)71-635 4[41] & Barbkem/Moorgate. HJOYARKO GILLERY FOTER Invertent Brans Project by Stephen Murphy and Don Brawn, Moa-Sun 10am-10pm, ends 18 Feb, free, Behendere Rd (0171-90) 4342) BR/O Waterloo.

ICA GALLER?

John Certa, Sections Reposite Paintings by Currin, scalebure by Hapeaka, Mon-Son Lincon-7,30pm (Fri until 9pm), ends 18 Feb. Li. Su day of whip. The Mall, SW1 (0171.930 3647) 

Charley Cross/Presentity Circus.

BPE\_MEMBLA GALLER!

Internal World Coriental automatics and modern.

lasian Water Oriental antiquities and modes ladian art. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm, ends 3 Feb, free. New Burlington Street, W1 (0171-437-2172) & Pier Circ.

NUTCHAL PORTRAT SALLERY Redurd Risia Dassay Life and art of a Regency couple. Mon-Sat 10am-open. San L'ançan-open. cards 18 Feb. £3, cones £2. S Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0085) • Charing Cross/Leioester Square.

BULISDON, RITGH, PERTON, MILL New World Integeny Contemporary Jamesican Art. Most-Son 10ton-10.30pm, code 25 Feb. free, Scond Bank Centre, 583 (0171-960 4242) BR/O-Waterloo.

SAUTCHE GALLER? Gregory Green, Charles Long, Thu-San 12more-spin, ends 3 Mar. Thu free, Pri-San 13-90. Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 8299) BR: South HampRead. SERPENTINE GALLERY

lses Statek Symbolic sculptural works focusing on the body. Mon-Sun 10am-opm, ends 25 Feb. tree. Kensington Gardens, W2 (0171-723 9072) & Sauth Ken. STATE LONDON ART CALLERY Sum Bigg: She specific video prece. Sat & Sum 2pan-6pm, ends 25 Jan. tree. Peckham Road, SE5 (0171-703 6120) & Oval.

sculptures. Mon-Sun (Dam-5-90pm, ends 28 Apr, free. Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) & Findico.

Writteshape, art Giller Buff Math Comprehensive show of oils, scaternshours and prints. See Critic's Choice. Tise-Sun Ham-5pm (Wed until Bpm), ends 25 Feb. 84.50, conss E.50, free Tiesdays. Whitechapel High Street, E1 (0171-522) 7885) & Aldgate East.

Oxford\_ CHROST CHURCH PICTURE GULLERY Rehard Bushwift-Little Utherness Scalptural works, Mon-Sat 10.30am-lpm, 2pm-5.30pm, Sun 2pm-5.30pm, ends 31 Jan. £1, concs.50p. Christ Church College (01865-276150)

MOSERM OF MODERN ART Sergie Cantargo: Scalphare 1968-1999 Retrospective show: Tue-Sar 10am-(Thu mill Ipm), Sun Dan-Gan, ends 14 Apr. 17 St. crues 17 St. free Wed Ham-Ipm. Thu 6pm-Ipm. Pembroke Street (01865-72773) Penzance

moto lones. Alice blatter Installation by Jones. painting by Maher, Mon-Sat 10nn-5pm, ends 10 Feb. free, New Road (01736-63715) Portsmouth\_

MESSATI ART CALLERY

ASPEX GALLERY
Buser Includes work by Ingrid Polland and
Krith Piper, Wed-Sai L2noon-topm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 18 Feb, free. Brongham Road (11705-612121) Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON CITY MIT CALLERY Surpreser us of an assession of Co-operators includes work by Langlands & Bell, Jane & Louise Wilson. Too Wed-Fri (Rum-Spot. Thu (Wan-Spot. Stat (Com-Spot. Stat.) Son. 2011 Spot. ends 5 S Feb. free.
Civic Centre (01703-852151)

MURTHING MISSEMM & ART GALLERY
John Brailly Heavily imposited social realist
pointing by 'kitchen sink' artist. Mon-Sat
(Dam Sprin, ends 3 Feb. free.
Chapel Road (01903-239999)

## COMEDY

Hampton Court WING BLUE WITHOUT AT THE WITHE Milton Jones, John Mann & Dylan Moran. San 8.30pm (0181-979 9988) £5, coms £4.

London\_ BANANA CABARET AT THE REDPORD Paul B Edwards, Scan Moo, Logan Murray & Andy Smart, Tunight 9pm, Bedford Hill (0181-673 1756) ❖ Balliam, £6, cones £4. CHRISTEF CLUB AT LONDON SCHOOL OF ROOMSHIESS Engene Cheese hosts Harry Hill, Milton Jones & Paul Bonkinson, Toright 7.4Spm Houghton Street, WCZ (0171-476 1672) & Holborn, Ib, Sudents £4.

STRICE OF 2 DE AT BLOOMSBERT THEATRE Ex-Actions Phil Hammond & Tony Gardner. Tonight Spm. Gordon Street, WC1 (017)-388 8821) BR/O Euston, 17.50, comes 15.50. BY THE CHEEK or in totals Andre Vincent MCs for Phill Jupius, Mark Maier & Sleve Murray, Tonight 9pm, Crock Road (1731-8594782) BR: Greenwich, £10, cones £8.

POP

Paul Merton, Sarah Parkinson, Lee Simpson Andy Singari, Jim Sweeney & Richard Vranch, Sun Bpro, Haymarhet House, Ozendon St (01426-914433) & Leic Sq. £9. Taunton TOP SETTER AT SE up uptal uninterest and tenter.

Iemny Eclair, the only female Perrier Winner
tours her outrageous show. Tonight 7.45pm.
Cost Orchard (01823-282344) phone for

DANCE Epsom PSON P. DHOUSE

Advance Ballet Company: Arabins Highls New
family-oriented ballet Cherographed by
Jan Kitteridge, Today 2, 30pm & 7,30pm
£12-50, child £6.50. Ashley Avenue

London

HAMPENSINTH APOLLO
Biggrance - The Slow Irish dance show with a
score by Bill Whelan, Mon-Sat Spor, mass
Sats 2-30pm, ends 10 Feb. £13.50-£27-50.
Queen Caroline Street, W6 (017)-416 6080)

© Hammer-smith.

PLUE THEORY:
Resolution: Correspond-Dance/March Ado/Row Head
Prescriete of Much, Ado/S Foundation: Paradocs.
Parallel: Paradolidile: Nonghi Spin. En. comes
64. Duke's Rd (6171-387 0031) & Emston. ROYAL OPERA HOUSE Royal Bullet Stemping Bassity See Critic's Choice. Boyal Bullet Stemping Bassity See Critic's Choice. 29, 31 Ian & 1 Feb, 7.30pm. £1.50-£70. Covent Garden, W.CZ. (0171-304-4000) & Covent Garden.

SADE ER'S WELLS Conson Planning New works by Spa choreographer Francisco Sonchez Grajera. Mon-Fri 7:30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, ends 10 Feb. E5-E5. Rosebery Avenue. EC1 (0171-278 8916/713 6000) & Angel.

CLASSICAL

Brighton A Produced Schoolsest 's 5th

Symphony with Double Plano Concertos by Ruch and Mozart (sokusas, Philip Fowke. Harrish Milne | Sent 2-45pm. EX-£15. Church Street (01273-707709)

London BARRICH NAL Londor Philomonic/Lague Sibelius' Fralandia, Grieg's Piano Concerto and Beethoven's 6th Symphony, Sun 7:30pm, £9:50-25-30. Barbican Centre, ECC (0171-636-8891) RANGE THE L

Cautining then Music Players With primist Nic Hodges in a celebration of the music of Michael Fernissy, Sun Span, S.T. cones 25. The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647)

CREEN ETGYBELK BYTT Mozart's Oboc Quartet and Clarinet in Mozart's Oboc Quartet and Clarinet Quintet. Tonight Turn. 56-623. Law lag! Dutilloux's 5 Preledes, Schaltert's 6 Cart legi Dutilicus 5 i Presides, Sciencers 50 Moments musiceaux and Brahms' 3rd Piamo Sonata. Sun 3.30cm. £6-£15.
Entrain Strate Cartes See Chine's Choice. 28 Jan. 7.45cm. £6-£15.
Entrain Strate Cartes See Crisic's Choice. 30 Jan. 7.45cm. £6-£15.
South Bank Centre. SE1 (0171-960-4242)
202-40 Westerson

RR + Waterloo. ACTOL PESTAGLE RALL ROW, FESTING, RIEL.

Philharmonia/was Bohanoyi Mabler's string orchestra arrangement of Beethoven's op.95, Schumann's Jud Symphony and Realms' Violin Concerto. Touight 7.30pm, 15-150. South Bank Centre, SEI (UT71-960 4242) BR. & Waterloo.

Borodia Strug Guartet The first sering quartets of Borodia, Prokoliev and Janucek, Tomphi 7, 30pm, 45-£18. Marin Best Consort Tro songs, melodies and damon. Sun 4pm. 15-111. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-938 2141) & Bond Street, Oxford Circus.

**OPERA** 

London LONDON COLISION. ENGLISH WOYOMAL OPERA The Pearl Fishers Phalip Provesc's staging of Bezer's opera set in Ceylon, Timight 7.30pm. £9-£50. St Martin's Lane. WCZ (0171-632 8300) @ Leisester Square/Charing Choss. ROTAL OPENA HOUSE WOULD OPERA The Middamer Marings A new production of Tippen's opera, directed by Graham Vick, and with John Tombinson as King Fisher. Thrich: 7pm, £1.50-£70. Covent Garden, WC (0171-504 4000) & Covent Garden.

on egueure
Bette See Critic's Choice Suster University Student's Union (01273-678154) Tought Spm.
phone for availability.

Cardiff
Ethiolity Serious-minded power-pop from student faves Sonya and en. Terminal 39th.
Cardiff University Park Place (01.222.396421)
Sun 7.30pm. £7.50.

London
Son See Critic's Choice. Assorts: Theoree
Charing Cross Read WC2 (0171-434 0403)

Tomenham Court Road. Son 7pm, 82
bests colored. O Tomenham Court Wand, Sun Jyan, 25. D-Julianus Landon funk band who have collaborated with Bjork, Seal and Mick Jagger. The Forum Highpute Rd (0171-334 0344) BRV® Kenthen Bown. Tonight Tyan, £10. Featus Excentric industrial rock pioneer. The Garage Highbury Corner NS (0171-647 1818xs 344 0044) © Flighbury & Islington. Son Norm S.

1810ct Ses tons. Di Spatialisms Annespheric country-rockets from Virgina. Spiest Cish, Water Russ Gray's Inn Road WCI (10171-278 3879) & King's Cross. Tonigha 8,30pm, 85.

<u>Norwich</u> Shed Serma York's hit-making undie-rock shamblers return. Historfront King Street (01603-632717) Tonight Spm, £t.

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK ETC Cambridge
Bang On A Can IB-Stars Aggression avant-chann
ber sennet. Com Eurhange Whoeler Street
(01223-357851) Sun 7.30pm, £7.50-29.50.

LONGORI
May Compilion Classy Irish blues/folk crooner.
Mean Fidder Harlesden High Street NW10
(01S1-961 5-901) BR: Willesden Junction.
Tonigin Rom. 210.
Ton pionist plays strange versions of The Magic Rotendarons, Old Bull Arts Centre High Screet, Barnet (0181-449 0048)

Arth Merin & Rore Parin Beachism scal'n'samba. Romaic Scort's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) & Tottenham Cri Rd. Tenight Spm, £12, mems £7.

LITERATURE London Orisingler Fraging Looking at the relation-ship between horror literature and film. Today 12moon, £A, comes £2.50. Item Smith An exploration of the detective genre. Today 3pm, £4, comes £2.50.

Lenn becken A look at the development science fiction. Today Spin, EA, comes £2.50.
Voice Bax, Royal Festival Hall South Bank
SE1 (0171-923 S800) BR/O Waterloo. Homes Walking Workshop A series of readings, vortishops and discussions looking at the work of women writers. Today (Osmo-spin, 20), comes E.2. Commonwealth Institute Kensington High Street W8 (0171-618 4535) & Kensington High Street.

## A333) © Kensungon rings autes. Shata felanya, lating Engelie, lam Bara The fire in a new series of poetry and prose readings. San Span, E4, cause E2, Jackson's Lone Commoniv Court Archivey Rend No. (0181-341 4421) © Highgate.

Arunded

Bailed Well: Empty the 63 species of birds
around this 60 sere site. Today 9.30am4.30pm. \$4, child £2, cones \$5.
Brass Baileing Event for children of all ages.
Brass Baileing Event for children of all ages.
Bridglond & Weldonds Thest Mill Road (019)4165454) Today 9.30am.4.30pm, £4, child
£2, cones £5 (+ 30p.50p to cover materials)

Bridgwater STREET Singing Warlahop Sazzany Hurden leads this workshop inspired by Jazz, soul, African and gospel traditions. Earlay 10.30an-12.30pm. f.A. Midgenater. Arta Centre Castle Street (01278-422700) Today 3pm.

5pm, £15, concs £10. London LONDON
The Limitus British Fair Everything for the prospective bride and groom. Alexandra Palace Wood Green N.22 (0)81-365 2121) BR: Alexandra Palace. Today & Sun, 10 am-5pm, \$3.

Palace. Today & Sun, 10 am-5pm, \$3.

Frazier. Curist Church Plighbury Grove NS (0)81-341 4421) 49. Arsenal. Today 2 pm-6pm (Workshop), 7-Wpm (Concert), \$5. conce \$3.

18th Birthay Columniant Live performances from West End Stows, a bast of calciprines and a stowie larrance. Hall Price Takes Routh | 2 female performances. showbiz karaoke. Half Price Ticket Bonds Leices-ner Sq (017)-836 0971) Today (2.30pm, fore.

Loss Brestona - Associate Service Moving exhibition looking at the life of the British Indocums survivor. The Journal Macrom - Finish-by East End Road NS (1918)-349 (145)

6 Finish-by Central, Mon-The 10.30am-jpm, Sun 10.30am-4.90pm, 2n one 21.

spm. Sun 10.500m-4.50pm 22. 05005 Ct.
Cloud Busser North American folk tales for
ages five and over Living Humanersmith King
Street W6 (0181-74) 2311) — Hammersmith, Taday Ham & Ipm. 23. smith. Today 11am & 1pm, 53.

Bood, Soa Ind for Exhibition charang the Irusand discoveries of explorers Sir Frances.

Droke, Captain James Cook and Sir John
Frankin. National Mariane Museum Romnew Road SE 10 (0181-558 4422) BR: Mase
Hill. From Sun, Mon-Sun, Itam-Spin, ends.
30 June, 55-50, cones (4-50, child 55.)

Weekl Of Premiers and Maharahans Chale (an in 30 June. 25.51. comes 24.50. child E. World Of Bravings and Mutarations Carly for in the world unclusively for drawings and act dealers with around 2000 original works. Park Lame Hotel Piczadilly W1 (0)71-703 (25%) & Green Park/Flyde Park Corner. Today & Sun 11am-7pm. 27. comes 23.50. child free. If Cabolin to Espans Spectacular display of horsemansing with the world Lamous Spunish Mancing horses. Roundlence Child Farm Road NWI (1)71-852 (73)5. Today 2.30pm & Sym. ES-22.51. comes 51-51.50.

interments from isother numers Shedd Paris. 
Journey through Asis to discover more
shout its testiles. Par Rh ets Museum South
Paris Road (01805-270927) Mon-Sat Ipm4,30pm, ends 20 Apr. free.

**AUCTIONS** Chabes Oak and country furniture, ethnic fur-

Chileste Cask and country furniture, ethnic fur-niture and needlewark. Monday (17m). Lots Road Galleries, 71 Lots Road, Chelse a Lon-don SWIO (0171-351 7771). Dichester: 18th: and 19th-century furniture, including press explorarity, dozen chests, dressers, an nouveau during state. Libles: and chairs, Thursday (10am). Kingsford Auxtions. The Langham Centre, School Road. Langham (01206-44858). Biss: Architectural salv: ge. including period building materials, and statuary, near Saturday (10am). The Diss Auxtion Rooms, Roydon Road, Twickness; 1613-79-650306). Beatons, least: 1,000-loc contents of four local estates; chaing furniture, jeweffery, ceramics, bronzes, watches, insuraments, broiks, sho-gates. pictures. Monday (12 noos) at the

gans, pictures Monday (12 notes) at the Weald of Kem Golf Club, Wealden Auction Galleries (01580-7145-22). Browiet: During and office furnisms, Wednes-day (11am) at the Au tion Centre, Watton-Hanel et Co (01953-912555). terbe: New and used catering equipment -Sometime New and used catering equipment coolers, microwant, griddles, washers, kitchenalia, cuttor, erockery, Wednesday (Ham) at the Grat Store Salercoun, West Lydford, S.H. tenkies (IIL/195-268788), status Books at a stages with many matural history and betan-led words, bound periodicals including. Vanity Fair, Illustrated Loudon News and Prach, primated epitemera, Wednesday (Ham) at the Old School, Marwell Street (III) 393-6113401.

(01793-611340). Whitesom Help the Aged art auction of 97 top UK contemporaries' work: next Saturday (8pm) at the Guildhall. Catalogue (10869-241610). Whitespies Building equipment – hand and power tools, timber, tomorrow (11am) at the SET Group Auction Centre, Clay Flatta Hading Estate, SET Group (01900-871818). Analyses Trade Govette, (0171-320-4957), Government Auction News (0171-330-7300) hotime.

#### enument Auction News (0) 71-353 7300 ha

**FAIRS** Adama halipute, over 150 exhibitors, Royal Horti-cultural Hall, Vincerat Sq. London SW1, temper-row (Adama Anajunes Fairs 0171-234-4054). Indiagly Sanday, say to 150 exhibitors, tomorrow (LACF 01636-702320). Heres Castle Anijunes Edenbridge, Kent, Friday-Sanday (1940-46114).

Herer Castile Assignes: Edenbridge, Kent, Friday-Sundray (01249-tol1111), Imbursti Hagus Assignes: today and tomorrow, Knebworth Barrs (Junction 7 Al) Ad, Saver-nage (Leonard Antiques Fairs 0171-486 5223). Lanua Rudques – second Norwich Fine Art and Antiques Fair: St. Andrews Hall, Norwich: 35 professional dealers, Thursday-Saturday (Liz Allport-Lanuas 01603-757631). Manantis Busington Park Carste Domington Exhi-bition Centre, nen Saturday and Sunday (Four in One 01455-233495). stands, Granby Halls tomorrow (Four in One

stands, Granby Halls tomorrow (Four in One 01455-223495).
Peterstield Intigues: Town Hall, Peterstield, Hampative, Thurstey-Sannday (Gamfin Extistation Services 01452-80257).
Surbury Intigues Nathus, Kampson Park, Race-course, Surbury on Thumes, Tuesday: 250 stalls inside, 250 oueside (01952-241867).
Sarray Camaries Pair, Carlands Park Hotel, Weybridge, today and tomorrow (Wakefield Ceramics Fairs (1958-776091).
Narial of Wakeraburs, and Densings: Park Lame Hotel, Piccadilly, London Wil; just day tomorrow (URL-742 1611).

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# church services

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany CONTROLLEY CATHERING - X2m HC 4.302m Majors, The CANTERIEST CASTREBIES. From HC. V. J. Gram Martin, The Highs Rev Rath. Hander Hann Some handeriest, Ma-na naive information (Edillo, The Architecture, A. 15 pen Evergroup: Parcell in B. Bath 6, 20 pen Compiline, The Rev Dr. M.J. Chamiller. 1988: Billet Be, San, S. San HC. (Martin Sang, Europarte Collecture regule: (Howelle). Cannon Dr. Edward Not-man, 11, Martin Marten, Stantinel in C. Apra. Evensorig. St. John's Service (Howelle). Cannon Baul Fergmonn.

second remarks 1 to 1.
CREMENTED CREENEL - Van Morring Project, Kam
IIC, The Rev Loops Innex 9. June Bockers). Canon
David Knight, 11. June Sung Enchartst. Lechnel in C.
The Vice Provoct, opt: Chemi Francop, Vocal in
C. Canon Barry Theoposis.
CREMENTED CREENEL June 141. June 34 to 5.

vice, The Presentor GONCESTE SUPLEMENT, Nam HC, 10,15cm Enchants), Durke in E. Ma Barton's Topy, (2pm I/C) Apm Econ-

Malins, Durke in F. 3. Open Eversong, Blair in H imnor, Cason Antheny Osborne.

MREWIG GUISTIN: 7. Alson Marsing Prayer, Sam H.L.

10. Alson Sung Eucharis. Schulbert in G. The Deum.

3. Open Festal Eversone, Admission of Organic and
Camifornia Processon. Semigrat for C. o. Open Eversong
Service, Caron Richard Hammer.

MFRIS, Carol Currie ham H1.: 10 am Mateus. Britten
in E. The Anthencore II. Ham Soung Eucharist. Mis20 acids. Curriet i Conskallt. Canon i TDon nam. Igen
Eversong. Collegium usegie (Howells).

PRESSINGIN CHREMINI. Nam H1.: 9. Ohim Parada Comnumber. Petersückl man (Marshy). The Rev Mary
McVicar. 10 an Sang Eucharyd. Missa brever (Kodak);
Canon Jane Petejach. h. Hum B.C., on Septim Canonical

G., The Rev 10 for Heinlich.

MISSENDI CHREMINI. Som H2. 9. 45 an Mateus. Lizanes in

MG., The Rev 10 for Heinlich. BRETOL CRIBEROL: "Albert Makers: Sam HC. (Dum Cheral Enchants, Missa brevs (Bestacky). Canon Ale-ms Redicts: "Albert Chotal Essistent, Magdalenserthe Redistry, Software Lord Establishing, Sugardan and Leighborn, Control Polis Johnson.

1027 ST 1020005, St Edmandstory Leithborn, Start HC, Canson Martin Show, Ultim Song Euchards, Canon Marin Show, II, Domith and Commission, Mism for social (Plantace), The Province J. Alpin Chical Eventual Control STERENT CHARGE AND THE ACCORDANCE WHEN THE STEEL AND THE CONTRACT AND THE ELECTRICAL STEEL AND THE S Soft: LETOPH 18. On their receiving, who in it has The Chopkin.

18880 ORIENBEL Sam HC, Wan Matter, The Librarian: Usan Sang Euckartor. Mora averna: Chrest munera (Palestrons). The Crease, for open Bestroomy. Short services (British). The Dean.

18880 Services (Palestrons). All the Charles Stevens: 11 Man Euckartor.

18880 Services (Leaghton). The Rev Graham Townin.

Magabalon services (Leaghton). The Rev Graham. F. Canno Barry Throughout.

CHERCE CHERROW, San HC. Hum Manns. The Precentury. Linux Sung. Empharms. Mores arburnelle
Langelish. The Press theory. Mores arburnelle
Langelish. The Press theory. Sung. Encharra.
Let all mortal healt (Barristot). The Transmer.
Lifson Malium, Stathann in F. The Dean, Son Eventure, Harmwal in A flat is Jupin Evening Serstee, The Prescaling.

CARDER Under Catachet 7.50cm Marins and Littery. See Mark Enclaries. The Rev J.F. Reviews Harms Sum Parish Enclaries. The Decare Harm sing Enclares. Darks in E. The Camou a Reademan, 12.15pm Holy Enclares; 330pm Cheral Evaname, Signation in At 3 When Readems and Water. A. Open Readons and Marie.

MENTAL CONTINUES: Ann. HC; 10.30µm Reption.

George box bath to man (Reducity A. Open Street Ex-

51 PAUL'S GENERALLE Nam HCC & Sam Matiens Han-Song Eucharias, Moso brevis (Palestring), Canon Michael Saward, 31 Spat Eurosop, Wood in E. Canon Michael Saward, 31 Spat Eurosan Euchaest of Intro-gratate the Mimstry of Richard, 15 and Beabago of Lundon.

#EXTREMENTER ARRIVE Rum HC: 10mm Marina, Collegium regale (Howelds), The Rev I colle (Houlden) 11.15mm Abbey Euchared, Missa Invers (Leighton), Cetton Archeony Harvey, your Erenared, Marrill in E. Camon Leighton) 2. theory Harriey, Jean Erenseug, Alurrill as E. Carbon
Anthorn Harriery, 5 (pan Organ Raotal, Owned Gam
mg. O. Upon Begring, Servec, The Rev Berry Festion,
SMERHORD COMPANI, Jean Tuckerser, Harn Cheral Einchariot, Missa selvente Circula transcen (Tackershed,
Camon David Pantler, Junt Evensong, Jackson in D.
The Proced.
WESTINGSTER COMPANIE, Jam, Kam, Sem Mass, Hasn
Marsing Prover, Id. Man Sadems Mass, Many in honorem Same Dominace (Rabbary). Upon Mass, 3 Julyan
Saletta Veryers, and Remediction, Magnifican pront
trait (Fallastran), 3 Julyan Organ Harsial by Joseph
Cullen and Analises Read S. Mayer Tom Mass.

(SERGICAL OF HEI DRIVEL MESSON Repols Gerhaland, Moscowie Rosel, Josefon W-2 - Nama Malanet Ham Device Liturge, Beynnether Chant and Chorel Mone, vang us Grook, Device Chant and Chorel Mone, vang us Grook, Device of the Builder of 1800 Chorel for the Service of Chanter of 1800 Chorel Masses of the Service and Zeanmaney traditions, samp in Chapter Sciences of Service Charles Business of the Service Charles and Zeanmaney traditions, samp in Chapter Sciences of Service Charles Orthodox, Jamessier Road, London Will To Depart Device Latency, Teacher Stream Chorel Messe, samp in Chapter Skewe-st. pe. **Generally neutstally conjust of \$7 500 CC**, beyond Generally

Chapt lined, St James 's Palane, A. When HC: 11 Lifem Marmag Prayer, A wast cloud of love (Popplewell).

Musple.

Consul Repub. Hampton Court. 8. Com HC. 18 am
Matter, British in C. J. Open Bransons, Noble in B maner.

Gry's in Gusph 11.15 on Deeme Service.

Gry's in Gusph (Seath Audicy Street, Wit's 15 on HC;

Hart Sung Enchartes Mans for Ore ventry (Byrd). The

Res's Street Holden.

Sandy Gasph, Wellington Barnacha, SWI: Hindy Manna.

The Chaptain, Libra HC.

Sandy Mental Galant, SWI: Heart Montain; Frayer, Warn

for the Hamphy Many went (Egnard). The Rev Kom

Harter. Harry.

In a Breat Colory Chapt. Greenwich. SELD: Visua Sang Encharter. The Rev I. Naylor.

All Editor by in Your, Dynard Seven. ECX Visua Sang Encharter. Canno Sangund Van Cutra.

Mass. Pottery Bridge. SW6; Sum HC; 9,30am Song Encharist; 11,30am Family Enchanys; April Sung PERLEATER I LANGE HOLD, WIT SEEM AND SEED AND SE

Guntheit Sont, 7 Jupin Informal Service, The Rev Sond's Miller.

Bay birth, Prince Contact Read, SW7: 8 June Eucherfer, 11 Jan. Choral Marning Frayer, The Rev LEM, Clastore 1207/pn Bacharist.

Bay birth, Storne Store, SW1: 84-Son 19C, 11 June Sung Eachners, Sonneiter on F. The Revote.

January Sonneiter on Sonneiter on Sonneiter on Particle Control Politics Control Following Control France Control Sonneiter on Sonnei op. 2 October's Phille-sell Gardens, 5W5, 10cm HC, 11mm St Outborth, Philles of Gardens, 1997, 100m An., 1320 Sang, Euchires, Marco O stargoom ongstome 1996 to the total. The Rev Ft BE. St Gargers, Bloomshow, Toam Sang, Euchires Fr Rene Jarrett. 6-36pm Serviceting. Song Euchires, Wei S. Stone HC: 11 am Song Bercherts, Weitlook in G. The Rector. Stamper S. Sang Bercherts, Weitlook in G. The Rector. Stamper S. Sang, Philosophys. State 1871, 1982 Euchires, 1884, 1884, 1982 Euchires, 1884, 1884, 1982 Euchires, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884, 1884,

Shamet's Masseril Hill, N10: Sam HC; 10: Non Melening Weeslage, 6:30 few Eventing France.

Shama Sarielington, Gerick Hill, ECC: 10: 30 am Sung Encitories, The Rev John Paul.

R John's, Hyde Part Occacat. W2 Sant HC; John Parth Communion. The Rev John's Bryt, 6:30 pm Perting Service, The Rev Thaddens Birtherd.

R John's Stratford Brengdown, Elle I Jam Family Service, Chouse No J Hernacht, The Rev David Richards.

O Myor HC. The Rev David Richards.

S John's World United, NNM, Sant HC; Union Parish Communions; I Jam Sung Eschood, Mens for Journole.

St Holl's North Cheek, NNM, Sant HC; Union Morning Proper and HC, Vanglam Williams in G manor.

The Rev David Waltser, 6:30 am Exenting Proper.

3 Haguss the Early Lower Thomas Street, ECC 31. Line Solvent Man.

2 Ringuas the Raring Lower Thistone Servet, ECR. 11885. Solcam Marst manner Abbrey 11-am Sang Ecolografia, 28 Ringuary, West manner Abbrey 11-am Sang Ecolografia, Missa communeria (Rubber), Catton Dovid Florit. 20 Rarin, Romannot 11888. Sang Enchantis, Mann Borris (Berlander), The Rev Anthony Share.

Rarins as Sur-Falds, WCC, Rary HC, 9-45-am Backerist, The Rev Rembard Schönenstate; LOS West Schönenstate; LOS West Schönenstate; LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate; LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Evensuring 6. Optim Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Choral Eventing Service. The Vest Marst Schönenstate (LOS Son Ch af ry Mints, Vicarage Gain, We Sam R.C. 9. One Stillery Mints, Vicarage Gain, We Sam R.C. 9. One Parab Eucharisa. The Vicara H. Sam Chonal Matons, The Rev & Gelli, 12. Open H.C. n. Open Evennang. The Rev F Gelli. 23. Open H.C. n. Open Evennang. The Rev F Gelli. 9. Open Proyer; iDon Parish Mans. Fr Michael Hart, Spin Man. Stillery's, Revene Street, SW1; Sun. 10 no. Low Mass. Ulam High Mans. Mints Sunci. 10 hasens: de Deo (Haydol, Caston Felez Pilliangton. 3 Mary's, Primuser Hill, NW7, Rev. HC; III, Clara Patish

Encharist, Mass for a Saint's Day (Jackson). The Rev John Ovendom; then Scarching for Wholeness. St likehal and all highs, Rectioned Park. Well Bass HC. (John Particl Encharity 6.45mp Evennong. Stiffens 19. (Conster Spanser, SWI: J.H.15mm (Different); Half Hourt I Jam HC., Malcolm Matson: Tort Indianousle States Scarce. The Rev (Tricks Advantage Health and Street Scarce). 28 Pagetta, Englon Road, NW1: 10.30xm Sung Mane, topm Chord Evenang.
28 Paff., Wilton Pinne, SW1: 2005, Sunt HC. 11mm Schwatz Endmaria, Collegium regale (Howelds), The Flow Christopher Couranged.
28 Paget. Enter Square, SW1: 8.15mm HC. 10xm Pinnshy Bendaria: 1 Lund Sung Enchariat, FWT, Royes, SP Mart. 5 Stornbarn, SW1: 6.20mm Sunsan, SW1: 6.20m

gas petrediction, St John h College stretch (Howells). 28 Suphur's. Glouvester Moud, SWT flam, Sup. Low. Mass. 11 am Solvann Mass. Japandionese (Flayda). Cannot Caristropher Colven. 28 Matter, Patter Lane, ECP. 11 am Sung Moss, The Ven Machael Colstongth. Machael Colebraich. SCharel. Flort Street, EC4; d.3Gmar FIC; 1.15mm

Statement's Owers of Scotland, Pros. Street. SW1: Upm. Jyn. HC, The Rev. John H. Meindor, G. Nipm. The Rev. W. Alexander Calira. Dans Lent. (Church of Scotland). Remed Street. WCL 11.15am. The Rev Stanley Hoods a Joyan. The Rev. Diann. Thoracted.

the Luty of the Assumption, Warwick Street, W1: Stern, 10mm, Mass, 11mm Sung Lath Mone, Mana cambras Dao (Conset); Liyan, Ayen, ayen, Ayen, Mass, 11mm, Allen Mass, 11mm, Latin Mass, Mars, 1or dinner wices (Byrelle 12.15pm Mass, Mers, 1or dinner wices), F. Varianti Hasse, 4.15pm, 6.15pm Mass, 15mm, 1

12. Note Miss. 3. April Solemi, Vetpen, O merum con-vivene (Handl): 4. April, 7pm Mars. In fant Station and Writing Station Rosel, Pempe Pan, \$12th Vallan Rossey: Olim Trickentine Mars.

Qu'Inquis, Holborn Visitori, BC1: 10.30am, Andrew

Sharpaid.

Hada Sepathbulunt Caurch, Wt.: Dam H.C., Donald Sep.
or.; Lings., John Tudor, C. Mons, Tony Jaspez.

Hadanigar Cauta Had (Methodist), SW:: Li am Magaing, United Had (Methodist), SW:: Li am Magaing, United Hada, The Rev Dr Renald Gibbins.

Batteria Ranky 59 Causel, Renaly 1828. Hamparity.

NUTY. Linn. The West Burth Wilson. Linns. Sep.

1827. Linn. The West Burth Wilson. Linns. Belleving France 198 Cassely Folks, Economical, NWS: 11am, The Rev Joshib Wellier-Riggs: Tym Ewrige 198 Cassely Folks, Economical, NWS: 11am, The Rev Joshib Wellier-Riggs: Tym Ewriter, Bandage Baled Belleving Castel, Allen Street, Well Ham, Allen Street, Well Ham, Allen Street, Well Ham, Lidge, The Rev Pears Louerit, Paddingto Cassel Birl. St Mark: Chartes, Okt Maryle-bane Road, Wil: 11am, Mise Mary Effer, St Bales Birl. New Louerit, Laur, The Rev Destination of Gillerpie. St Bales St. New Louerit, 1993. 11am, The Rev Destination of Gillerpie. St Bales St. St. New Louerit, Greeks Street, C. O. Opin Ewriting Service; School Her. The Rev Paul D. Schmieger, Tym Jan. Vapper, The Bev Paul D. Schmieger, Tym Jan. Vapper, The Bev Paul D. Schmieger, Tym Jan. Vapper, The Ewr Paul D. Schmieger, New Louerit (10.45m) The Act of Conformation of Man, The Rev Cappel.

Street, Wir. 10.45mr The Act of Consecration of Man. The Rev R. Capel.
Water's Grand (Methodist), Cirv Rond, E.C.1: 9.45am RC. 11am Monting Service, The Rev Poul Hatine.
Westminger Chapel (Independent E-magellien), Burklugham Gate, SWF 11am, 5.30am, Dr R.T. Scodell,
Beanshey Entral Bajaté Horis, Statishouty Ascessar,
WC.2: 11am, 0.40pm, The Rev Roger Name.
Water Hating, Society of Frencht (Consister), 52
Si Martin's Lane, WC.2: 11am Macting for Worship.

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21.07

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Horizon 8pm BBC2. Are current environmental predictions alarmist? Meet some conservationists who think they are – and dangerous to boot (349356).

Classic Ships 8.30pm C4. We've had Classic Cars, Classic Trucks and Classic Bikes – now the ships and yachts that inspire. DJ John Peel, a little oddly, is the

Cutting Edge 9pm C4 (above). The stories of four people who blew the whistle on illegality and malpractice (9436).

narrator (3165).

TUESDAY

The House 9:30pm BBC2. The management has a showdown with the chorus, who are dressed in Hebrew costumes at the time. Surreal (159127),

Film: Second Serve (Anthony Page 1986 US) 10pm C4. Vanessa Redgrave in the dual role of Richard Raskind and sex-change tennis player Renee Richards (650837).

Inside Story 10.40pm BBC1 (above). More

on Caroline Beale, the Essex woman who

tried to smuggle her dead baby out of America. Bad or mad? (914301).

Under the Sun: Painted Bables 9,30pm BBC2 (above). A look at the beauty-contest circuit for tots in the Southern United States

The Big Idea 11:15pm BBC2. The Independent's Andrew Marr meets Francis "end of history" Fukuyama (654899).

Seasiders 9pm C4. Fly-on-the-whatsit: documentary series about a summer holiday camp near Scarborough. It ain't the Royal Opera House, but it is a lot of fun. The moral? Big or small — don't let a camera team anywhere near you (9352). Annie's Bar 9.30pm C4 (above). New political soap opera-set around a House of Commons watering hole, and filmed just before transmission for maximum topicality. From the production company headed - a tale of driven parents and embiguous ideas about childhood (5573848).
Film: Nadine (Robert Benton 1987 US)
10.40pm ITV. Shakey married couple Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger pull together to solve a murder (6381832).

> Cause Cálèbre (9:30am R4). The series that gives human interest a good name returns with the tale of Patricia Caswell, who spent two days trapped in an ice cavern with her son and the body of her husband after an Alpine climbing holiday went hombly wrong.

ity. From the production company headed by Prince Edward (13401).

Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's...
Impasse 8.30pm ITV, Merton revives a 1963 Comedy Playhouse script that starred Leslie Philips and Bernard Cribbins. The subject is modern enough; however—road rage (5802).
Film: The Secret of My Success (Herbert Ross 1987 US) 9.30pm BBC1 (above).
Michael 1 Fox goes from post boy to boardroom, and wins the girl (Helen Slater) in yuppie famasy, supreme (724821).

Beam Me Up Scotty (R4 10am). John Peel steps away from pop music to boldly venture through space-age pop culture from 1929 to 1999. Why did the forward-looking optimism of Dan Dare give way to retrospection and cyrilcism in the 1970s and 1980s?

#### Radio by Adrian Turpin

Television

by Gerard Gilbert

Tahiti in a Cold Climate (8.45pm R4). St Kilda,a wind-cursed hunk of granite 50 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, must be one of the most inhospitable islands ever lived on. This documentary explores the island's sorrowful history.

The Reith Lecturer Interview (8.30pm R4). What would Lord Reith have thought of the Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford giving lectures in his name? Jean Aitchison introduces herself before her talks on the possibilities and pitfalls of language.

# Folk on 2 (7pm R2). How did Bob Dylan get his first big break? Carolyn Hester tells Jim Lloyd about the day her harmonica-playing father couldn't make a recording, so she sent for an inexperienced young stand-in. The stuff of which rock'n'roll legends are made.

## **Sunday Television and Radio**

### BBC<sub>1</sub>

7.05 Match of the Day – the Road to Wembley (R) (S) (7314461).

8.15 Suenos - World Spanish (4198374). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (81138).
9.30 The Big Question. Mark Lawson talks to Lynda La

Plante (S) (3007022). 9.45 First Light. Liberal Democrat MP David Alton discusses his faith (S) (451490).

10.15 See Hear! (S) (506729). 10.45 The French Experience (S) (1638935). 11.00 The 11th Hour, New tricks for old dogs (S) (48664).

12.00 CountryFile (S) (73490). 12.30 On the Record (41003).

1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (\$) (5103480). \*
2.55 Australian Open Tennis. Highlights of this morning men's final (4367480).

3.45 Match of the Day Live - the Road to Wembley. Live coverage of the FA Cup fourth-round tie between Sheffield United and Aston Villa (S) (59927461).

6.05 News; Weather (602564). \* 6.25 Local News (408935). 6.30 Songs of Praise. Sir Harry Secombe visits Dumfries (S) (722041). \*

7.05 Antiques Roadshow. From Stirling University, where finds include a first edition of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit (S) (691732). \* 7.50 Pie in the Sky. Fisher asks Crabbe to investigate the rising number of garden thefts in Middleton,

forcing him to team up with the National Horticultural Division (S) (695119). \* 8.40 News; Weather (731480). \* 9.00 A Mug's Game, Excellent new drama from Donna Franceschild, who gave us one of the best new

dramas of last year, Takin' Over the Asylum, set on Scotland's west coast. See Preview, p28 (301409). \*9.55 Ruby Wax Meets Irrelda Marcos. The title says it

all, as La Wax begins a new series of celebrity interviews. See Preview, p28 (S) (747848). \* 10.45 Everyman. The returning series takes a look at Christian Channel Europe, the first American-style religious satellite channel in Europe. See Preview,

voode 1983 US). Photo-journalist Nick Nolte goes on assignment to Nicaragua to cover the Sandanista revolution against President Somoza and abandons his neutrality. A smart, well thought-out film, costarring Gene Hackman, Joanna Cassidy, Ed Harris (as an American mercenary) and Jean-Louis Trintignant as a sleazy Frenchman working for the CIA (497157).

1.35 Weather (2740078). To 1.40am.

## BBC<sub>2</sub>

7.30 Children's BBC: Rupert. 7.35 The Adventures of Skippy. 8.00 Playdays. 8.20 Grimmy. 8.35 Jackanory: Here We Go! 8.50 Felix the Cat, 9.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles, 9.35 Phantom 2040. 9.55 Highly Sprung! 10.25 Grange Hill. 10.50 Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars. 11.15 As Seen on TV.

11.45 Star Trek (R) (1222393). \* 12.35 Fantasy Football League. Dani Behr and Danny Baker are the fantasy managers (6288393). 1.05 Singled Out. US dating game (32626645).

1.30 Regional Programmes (34374). 2.00 Mrs Miniver (William Wyler 1942 US). You can either laugh at this idealised Hollywood version of middle-class British stoicism in the teeth of the Blitz, or you can ditch the propaganda, ignore the accents and enjoy it at face value - as well-staged melodrama, staming Greer Garson as the housewife superstar, holding her chin high as husband and son go to war (46017157).

4.10 Ski Sunday. The men's downhill from Sestriere in Italy (S) (8179119).

4.55 Rugby Special. Fifth-round highlights from the Pilkington Cup, including Newcastle vs Harlequins (S) (1993515). 5.55 Natural World. Wildlife in the Arctic (S)

(149374).6.45 The Big Trip. Continuing the travelogue series following three couples as they make long journeys in different parts of the world. This week

Andrew and Matt reach Guyana, while Helen and Alison are still in Thailand (S) (432916). \* 7.30 Timewatch, How Sir Francis Drake met his end. See Preview, p28 (793799). \*

8.20 In Search of Power (213799). 9.10 The Tourist. History of the holiday camp - that invention of the 1930s. Sir Fred Pontin and Lady Butlin are among those interviewed (490867). 10.00 IN Leaving Normal (Edward Zwick 1992 US). Bored housewife Christine Lahti and world-weary

waitress Meg Tilley meet by chance in the town of Normal, Wyoming and decide to decamp to Alaska (S) (983119). 11.50 Weatherview (814409). 11.55 (2022) He Walked by Nigh

Anthony Mann 1948 US). Richard Basehart is terrific as a psychopathic thief and electronics wizard who keeps tabs on the police by monitoring their radios in this cultish, strikingly photographed B-classic (722374). \* To 1.15am. 2.00 The Learning Zone. To 7.00am. REGIONS. Wales: 1.30pm Welsh Lobby. 4.55 Scrum 5.

ML 1.30pm Now You're Talking. 1.55 Our

## ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6,00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (13044). 8.00 Disney Club. Guests are the singer Johnna and rugby player Kyran Bracken (S) (35190480).

10.15 Link. How disabled people are portrayed in literature (S) (7013041). \*

10.30 Sunday Matters. Can God and science exist sideby-side? Sue Cook and Roger Bolton ponder the imponderable. Including 11.00 Morning Worship from St Anthony's, Beeston, Leeds (S) (84732). \*

12.30 Crosstalk (62157). 1.00 News, Weather (28747664). \* 1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Dimbleby and his studio audience cross-examine another public figure

2.00 The Trail of the Incredible Hulk (Bill Bixby 1989 US). They said it. Bill Bixby stars (21157). 3.30 SAM Dr No (Terence Young 1962 UK). The first and most faithful of the James Bond adaptations sent 007 Sean Connery to Jamaica. The one where Ursula Andress walked out of the sea and

into movie stardom (34225).

5.30 London Tonight (412515). \*
5.50 News, Weather (781157). \*
6.05 SEEM Captain Ron (Thom Eberhardt 1992 US). Disney comedy that ought to be made to walk the plank. Martin Short buys an old boat and hires sozzled pilot Kurt Russell to take his family to the

Caribbean. Grim (S) (70950645). \*
8.00 A Touch of Frost. A beautiful woman found dead in a car park leads David Jason's dour tec' into the heart of a religious community (S) (8041). \*

10.00 Lights, Camera, Action: A Centenary of the Cinema. Special effects. And we don't mean Michael Aspel's year-round tan, but how they turn day into night, make it rain on sunny days and all that stuff (S) (4848). \*

11.00 News, Weather (Followed by London Weather) (495003). \*

11.15 Spitting Image (S) (192003). 11.45 Compass. Travelogue. Two keen fishermen go in search of the coveted Golden Mahseer, a prized

Indian game fish (R) (168206). 12.45 Escapist (Eddie Beverly 1983 US). A radio-Houdini and promote his flagging station, You'd best escape to bed (102981).

2.25 Cue the Music. The Byrds (6639558). 3.25 The Big Land (Gordon Douglas 1957 US). Cattle owners and grain farmers join forces to bring the railroad to Texas. For insomniacs and Alan Ladd fans only (785165). 5.00 ITV Sport Classics (R) (24691). 5.30 News (42900). To 6.00am.

## Channel 4

6.25 Trans World Sport (R) (8308916). 7.20 Take 5. With The Magic Roundabout, Bush Tails, Natalie, Ivor the Engine and Joggy Bear (\$) (3085770).

7.45 The Magic School Bus (S) (30848). 8.15 Hong Kong Phooey (4114312). 8.30 Sturt Dawgs (9354664). 8.55 Biker Mice from Mars (R) (9373799). 9.20 The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (4958645).

9.50 Earthworm Jim (S) (1420848). 10.15 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (1243577). \*

10.40 Wise Up. Kids make their own reports, including a 12-year-old dyslexic who briefs an ad agency to help him promote better understanding for sufferers (S) (4773003). 11.15 Rawhide (708585).

12.15 Mission Impossible (355645). \*
1.15 Football Italia, Parma vs Internazionale (63093409). 3.30 Short and Suite (2605867).

3.40 and The Out of Towners (Arthur Hiller 1970 US). New York does its very worst to visiting Ohio businessman Neil Simon and his wife Sandy Dennis: strikes, blizzards, uncooperative locals and, of course, a mugging. Neil Simon wrote the original screenplay, and it all probably seemed so much fresher in 1970 (222393). \*

5.30 Hollyoaks. Last Monday's episode (R) (S) (428). 6.00 The Persuaders! Danny buys a country cottage 7.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson goes underwater – to

the spot where, 20 years ago, a teenager scuba diving off a beach in Devon found a 400-year-old bronze cannon on the seabed (3119). \* 8.00 Wired World. Peter Curran presents this somewhat conventional global media view (how about a media series looking at the fast-

underground Nigerian journalist Babafemi O Jundu, life with the Newbury bypass protesters and India's first gay TV movie (S) (5747).

8.30 (State Chisum (Andrew V McLaglen 1970 US).
Cattle-rancher John Wayne isn't going to take the injustices of land-grabber Forrest Tucker anymore

approaching future?). This week has items on

Cowboys. American football. If you can make head or tail of this sport, and don't merely think it looks like Rugby League played by Village People extras with no knowledge of offside laws, then no doubt you'll be hooked enough to catch the annual extravaganza, five and exclusive from the Sun Devil Stadium. Gary Imlach is, naturally, your guide. See The Big Match, p28 (28038041).

## **ITV/Regions**

MIGLIA
As Laudon except: 12.30pm James Bond Jumor (62157).
2.00 Countywide (2751). 2.30 Carbon (3812659). 2.45
Film: Cast a Giard Shadow (79177770). 5.10 Duty Free
(5762848). 11.45 Film: Nightmare at Bilds Caek
(275022). 1.30am Hosel Babylon (7066368). 2.10am
Late and Loud (6537146). 3.10am Shift (9148813).
4.10am Falmy Business (78976368). 4.40-5.30am
Film: My Town (3959900).

TYPE TEES/FURNISHIRE

THE IES/TURNSHIR.

As London except: 12.25pm Tyne: Newsweek (3827119), Yorks: Yen Can Cook (3836867). 2.00 Murder, She Whote (3711596). 2.55 Filtrs: Carry on Constable (77273567). 4.30 The Richard Whiteley Show (533895-9), 11.45 Filtrs: Return to the Blue Lagoon (758770). 1.40em Filtrs: D.H.B. Broot (78836037). 4.25-5.20em befords: (755501). 5.30am Johlinder (3753691).

Tennis.

As London except: 12.30pm Central Newsweek (5295683). 2.00 it's Your Shout (2751). 2.30 Highway to Hasven (9752954). 3.25 Film: Condoman (59555428). 5.50 Carbon Time (4070954). 5.15 Our House (849409). 11.45 The War of the Worlds (355848). 12.40am Night Shift (6847707). 5.00am Jobinder (3239894). 5.20.5.30am Asian Sye (3338320).

ktiv
As Loodon except: 12.25pm West: West Eye View
(3227119) Wales Primetirus D'ary (3627119), 2.00 West:
The Middle Ages (2751). Wales: Welsh Agenda (2751).
2.30 West: West Match Plus (770). Wales: Soccer Sunday (770). 3.00 West: Wish You West Pers., 17865).
Wales: Sunvival (1885), 3.30 Film: The Dog Who Stopped
the War (584645), 5.15 Begfad (36 (649409), 11.45
Film: Nightman at Eitter Creek (275022), 1.30am Hotel Babylon (7065360), 2.10am (ale and Loud (637146),
3.10am Shift (9148813), 4.10am Funny Business
(78976368), 4.40-3.30am Film: My Town (3959900).

MERIONAN As Landon except: 12.30pm Seven Days (926) 1900: 2.00 Wish You Were Here...? (2751), 2.30 Pilms Furny Gri (65584428), 5.15 Days with Dumber (849409), 11.45 Pilms Nightmers et Bither Creek (275022), 1.30am Hotel Babylon (7065368), 2.10am Lete and Loud (6537146), 3.10am Shift (9148813), 4.10am Furny Business (78976363), 4.40-5.30am Pilms My Town (3959300).

WESTCORNIEY
As London except: 12.30pm Westcountry Update
(6295683). 2.00 The Middle Ages (2751). 2.30 Westcountry Western Match (770). 3.00 Films A Star Is Bon
(53733138). 5.05 Westcountry Carneos (4070954).
5.15 Cataways (849409). 11.45 Film: Nightmers at
Bitler Creek (275022). 1.30am Hotel Babylon
(7065368). 2.10am Late and Loud (6537145).
3.10am Shift (9148813). 4.10am Funny Business
(78976368). 4.40-5.30am Film: My Town (3959900).

546 As C4 except: 8.55 Derms (8964732). 9.10 The Secret World of Alex Mack (7504867). 9.40 Moviewatch (5501577). 10.10 Hollyooks (6852770). 11.15 The Avengas (706585). 1.15 Roward a Roward (324615). 1.45 Rap (75770225). 2.10 Toom Tymor (5798645). 3.10 Pilms Surdes (30441374). 5.00 Wild Britain (1645). 5.30 Pobol y Cwen (37921645). 7.25 Decirau Caru Decirau (466119) 7.55 Newyddion (329409), 8.00 Twno (288003), 8.50 Y Parc (928)19), 9.50 Seith AY Sul (504157), 10.06 San Seitan (829)38), 10.25-10.35pm Cosed Mondays (6223)2).

## Radio

#### Radio 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM)

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00
Dave Pearce 2.00 Soul on Sunday 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 Signs of the Times 8.00 Radio I Rock Show 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Alastair Whitehead 4.00-6.00am Cive

## Radio 2

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A STATE OF THE STA

- ....

(38-90.2MHz PM) 7.00am Don Maciean 9.05 Michael Aspel 10.30 Hayes on Sunday 12.00 Desmond Carrington 2.00 Benny Green 3.00 David Jacobs 4.00 Those Beautiful Balled Years 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Frank Topping 7.00 Jeffrey Archer 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 Taking Notes 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00 -7.00am Alex Lester

#### Radio 3 **80.2-92,414tz FM**)

6.15am Open University. 7.00 Sacred and Profane.
8.55 Choice of Three, With world music specialist Jo Shinner.

9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning.

9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning.

Rossini: Overture: The Thleving Magple. Pachelbel: Canon and Gigue. Purcell: Morning Hymn. Breit: Als ich an einem Sonntagmorgen Frau Müller Lind Viseldi: Concern in F. minor. traf, Vivaldi; Concerto in F minor. Liebesfreud, Allegri: Miserere. Vaughan Williams: Partita. Monteverdi: L'Orfeo (excerpts). Composer of the Week. Janacek: Prelude: The Makropulos Case. Brahms: Schickelasiled. Schubert: Grand March in E flat (D819 No 1). Dowland: Lachrimae coactae; Lachrimae amantis, Beethoven:

Symphony No 4 in B flat. 12.15 Music Matters. 1.00 News; From the Proms 1995. Heinrich Schiff (cello), Philadelphia Orchestra/Wolfgang Sawallisch. Wagner: Overture: Das Leibesverbot. Hindemith: Cello Concerto. Strauss: Ein Heidenleben. 2.30 Spirit of the Age: The Sound of Sighs. (2/2). 3.30 Harewood House Concert.

Marie McLaughlin (soprano) and Malcolm Martineau (piano).
Songs and arias by Cavalli, Schubert, Wolf, Fauré and Rossini. (2/2). 5.05 The BBC Orchestras. BBC

Scottish Symphony Orchestra/ Jerzy Maksymiuk, Philip Fowke (prano), Khachaturian: Piano

## Choice

of journalism in Britain.

5.45 The Sunday Feature: Orlando and Friends. 6.30 City of London Sinfonia. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No 6 in 8 flat, Hindenfith: Five Pieces, Op 44. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F. 7.30 The Sunday Play: A View to a

Haunt. 9.35 Choir Works. Brian Wright introduces Berlioz's sacred trilogy depicting Christ's childhood. 11.15-12.30am Record Review.

Radio 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM, 198MHz LYA) 6.00am News Briefing, 6.10 Something Understood. 6.55 Weather. 7.10 Sunday Papers.
7.15 On Your Farm.
7.40 Sunday.
8.50 The Week's Good Cause.
8.55 Weather.

9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Morning Service. 10.15 The Archers. 11.15 Mediumwave. 11.45 Sentimental Journey. (2/6). 12.15 Desert Island Discs. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World This Weekend.

1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time.
2.30 Classic Serial: Sunset Song.
3.30 Pick of the Week. 4.15 Asia Gold. 5.00 News; Crimescapes. (4/6). 5.30 Poetry Please! 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Feedback. 6.30 In Search of the National

Interest. 7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: Tales from the Perilous Realm. 7.30 A Good Read. 8.00 (FM) The Natural History 8.00 (LW) Suenos - World Spanish. 8.30 (FM) That's History. 8.45 (LW) Francophonie. 9.00 (FM) First Person Plural.

In Taking Notes (10pm), a R2 Arts Programme special, Adam Sweeting of the Guardian investigates the history of popmusic writing. In the early Sixties, it consisted of little more than rehashing record company press releases. Since then it has become possibly the most influential form

9.30 (FM) Flashpoints. 9.30 (LW) Writer's Weekly. 10.00 News. 10.15 Medicine Now. 10.45 The Final Frontier. 11.15 in Committee, 11.45 Seeds of Faith, (1/6). 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Story: From Marrakech. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

Radio 5 (63), \$198tb \$40]
6.05am Straight Up 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Sunday with Mair 11.35 Special Assignment 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 The Big Byte 1.05 Baker and Kelly Up Front 2.30 Gary Linefeer's Sunday Sport 6.05 Jim and the Doc 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Acid Fest 8.05 Taking Drugs Seriously 8.35 Asian Perspective 9.00 Dallyn Worldwide 10.05 Out This Week 10.35 Crime Desk 11.05 Superbowl XXX 3.05 Up All Night 5.00-(693, 900 Hz **344**)

bowl XXX 3.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports Classic FM (100 t-101348tr R)
6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Romance 12.00 Celebrity Choice 1.00 Alari Mann 3.00 Masterclass. 4.00 Robert Booth 7.00 Book A.00 Robert Booth 7.00 Block Browse 8.00 Classic FM Evening Concert. 10.00 Howard's Week 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00-5.00am Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260) Mr 105, 8MHz HM 1921, 1931-120,00 km 103,000 km 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Paul Coyle 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Gary Davies 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

World Service

1.00 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Red Dwarf 1.30 Anything Goes 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Composer of the Month 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Jazz for the Asking 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Shelf: Frenchman's Creek 4.45 Red Dwarf 9.15 (LW) Short Stories in Spanish. | 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Andy Kershaw

### **Satellite**

6.00am Hour of Power (61138). 7.00 Undun (104886). 10.00 Ghoul-Lashed (41352409). 11.45 The Perfect Family (1005683). 12.00 The Hit Mix (92312). 1.00 Star Trek (78732). 2.00 Brisco Star Tiek (78732), 2,00 Brisso County Junior (56119), 3,00 Star Tiek: Woyager (15799), 4,00 WWF Action Zone (94206), 5,00 Great Escapes (4751), 5,30 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (6044), 6,00 The Simpsons (7577), 7,00 Beverty Hills 90210 (39867), 8,00 Star Tiek: Voyager (48515), 9,00 Highlander (28751), 10,00 Renerate (29139), 110 Selected gade (38138). 11.00 Seinfeld (95935). 11.30 Duckman (44374), 12.00 60 Minutes (66691), 1.00 She-Wolf of London (92691), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix

Long Play (6243146). SECY MONTES 6.00am it Happened at the World's Fair (1963) (43480), 8.00 Dodge City (1939) (70799). 10.00 A Child's Cry for Help (1994) (84393). 12.00 Lost in Yonkers (1993) (53022). 2.00 The First Men in the Moon (1964) (166003). 3.55 Son of the Pink Panther (1993) (922916), 5.30 in Your Wildest Dreams (1991) (77954). 7.00 Lost in Yonkers (1993) (56747). 9.00 Murder One (20119). 10.00 Alistair Original Control (1994) (542521). 11.40 The Movie Show (840664). 12.10 The Favor (1994) (586894). 1.50 Just Between Friends (1986) (990894). 3.40-6.00am A Better Torronow (1986) (79026146).

MOVE CHANGE 6.00am Scooby Dog and the Ghoul School (1988) (41022). 8.00 Inhu-manolds (1986) (61041). 10.00 manoids (1986) (61041). 10.00 Jumping Jacks (1952) (82935). 12.00 Meet Me in Las Vegas (1956) (51664). 2.00 Web of Deception (1994) (10732). 4.00 The Counterfelt Contiessa (1994) (6732). 6.00 Official Denial (1993) (30596). 8.00 Maverick (1993) (736138). 10.10 Florite (1993) (736138). 12.10 Deep Red (1994) (2099252). 1.40 Betrayed (1995) (784320). 3.15-6.00am One Woman's Courses (1993) (25449788). Courage (1993) (25449788).

SKY MOVES GOLD 12.00mon State Fair (1962) (74664). 2.00 Nanhoe (1952) (94732). 4.00 it Started in Naples (1960) (7022). 6.00 The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956) (1695). 8.00 Mr Morn (1983) (19041). 10.00 This Island Earth (1964)

(597461). 11.35 Peeping Tom (1960) (175248). 1.20-3.05am The Seventh Scal (1956) (928542)

THE GOLD 7.00am Give Us A Clue (8703935). 7.30 The Pink Parither (4768157). 7.35 Going for Gold (5154288). 8.00 Spring and Autumn (6266935). 8.30 And Mother Makes Five (6265206). 9.00 The Pink Parither Show (7531848). 9.15 Dr Who (39153848). 12.00 Doctor at the Top (6269022). 12.30 It Ain't Half Hot, Musm (7630954). 1.00 Film: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (7017374). 3.00 The Bill Omnibus (39612119). 5.15 Bergera: (44080022). 6.20 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em' (1893181). 7.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show (4426461), 8.00 Miss Marple: 4.50 from Paddington

(58920428), 10.15 The Bob

Incompagn 10.15 life Bob Marithouse Show (51198312). 11.20 A Very Peculiar Practice (8024751). 12.15 Reilly Ace of Spies (86697787). 1.20 Public Eye (8970287). 2.15-7.00am Shop-ping at Night (36789707). STROPE VIE 7.00am American Cavalcade (20480), 8.00 International Motorsport (90848), 9.30 Skiff Salling (87515), 10.00 Rugby Union Up-date (67751), 12.00 Goals on Sunday (24670). 2.00 Hold the Back Page (92935). 3.00 Gitette Word Fig. 1925/31, 350 dialize Wolf Sport Special (5022), 3,30 Interna-tional Motorsport (81003), 5,00 Stdf Salling (7867), 5,30 Goals on Sunday (602683), 8,00 Champions of Sport (97969193), 10,15 FA Cup Update (358190). 10.30-2.30em The Super Bowl (6876041).

7.00am Soccer Extra (9855751). 11.00 Sports Unlimited 11.10 Sports Unlimited (7264041), 12.00 Golf (3410805), 4,30 Ironaman Triathlon (3600480), 6,00 Saliling (2817041), 6,30 World Pro Figure Skating (2599645), 8,30 Golf (1045596), 11.00 Snowboard Tour (4277461), 11.30 Sports Un-Britted (8933393). 12.30-1.00am Powerboat World (3512271).

9.00am AM Live. 10.00 The Pash-lon Show. 11.00 Video Box. 1.00 A Week in Review. 2.00 Sport Live. 5.00 Best of Buzzin, 7.00 Showbic Live. 8.00 A Week in Review. 9.00 The Fashion Show. 9.30 Video Box. 10.00 Stand-Up Live. 11.00 The Sex Show. 12.00 Stand-Up Live. 12.30 The Sex Show. 1.00

## **Pastimes**

#### **Chess** William Hartston

crowns engaged in fierce making a contribution. jostling for position. Vladimir Kramnik and

Vassily Ivanchuk have proven themselves as good as anyone in tournament play, but both disappointment last time in the world championship qualifying matches, when Gata Kamsky and Viswanathan Anand won through. And then there is Alexei Shirov. In a class of his own 11 gxf6 d4

when it comes to raw imag- 12 Bc4 Qxf6 ination, Shirov - or Planet 13 Nd5 Qc6 34 h5 Rxc7+ Shirov as he is respectfully 14 Bzd4 Bb4+ 35 Kd2 Be4 known by his peers – is quite 15 c3 Qzc4 36 Rg1 + Kh8 the most spectacular player 16 Be3 Ba5 37 Ke3 Bb7 around. Try this game for size, from the current tour
17 Nf6+ Ke7 38 Rgd1 Re8
18 Nd5+ Ke8 39 Nf5 Bc8 nament in Wijk aan Zee. 19 Nf6+ Ke7 40 Rd8 Bxf5 White sacrificed a piece in 20 Bg5 Bc7 41 Rxe8+ Kg7 the opening, won it back 21 Ne4+ Ke8 42 Rxe5 1-0

The era of Karpov and Kas- with the unlikely 28.Bd8! parov is drawing to a close and still had enough left for and every tournament now a mating attack in the sees the pretenders to their endgame, with even his king

> **1** e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 25 Nxg4+ Kf8 5 Nc3 a6 **6** Be3 e6 **7** g4 e5 8 Nf5 g6 9 ಭ ಭಯ

**10** exf5 d5

White: Alexel Shirov Black: Borls Gelfand 22 Qg4 b5 23 Nf6+ Ke7 24 0-0-0 Oxg4 26 Bb6+ Ke7 **27** Bg5+ Kf8 28 Bd8 Bxf5

29 Bxc7 Nc6 30 Nh6 Bg6 31 Rd6 Nb4 32 cxb4 Kg7 33 h4 Rhc8

**Perplexity** Labour pains:

If GRAMMAR minus SCHOOL equals HARMAN and each distinct letter in the sum represents a different digit from 0 to 9, what is the value of GRAMMAR?

A copy of the new Larousse Desk Reference Encyclopedia will be awarded to the first correct answer opened on 8 February. Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL Entrants who misspell "Independent" or "Pastimes" will be unlikely to win.

13 January competition: J times MAJOR = TORIES is solved as either: 7 x 59718  $= 418026 \text{ or } 9 \times 40968 =$ 368712. So SMARTIES = 24083712 or 65984026. Winner: A Clark (York).

#### **Bridge** Alan Hiron

Love all; dealer East North QJ ♥A 10864 QAJ3 **+975** West East

**♦**A43 **♦**K 2 ♥KJ93 Ø075 010987620K **♣**AQ10864 South **1098765** 72 **♦Q54 ♣**K]3

Speculative doubles can pay unexpected dividends. As Leo Baron once wrote: "If you

don't sometimes double had played the jack. Although opponents unsuccessfully, you the return had been a suit prefare not doubling enough.

The bidding needs some explanation: East opened 2♥ (showing, in a modified Precision Club System, 11-15 points - the singleton ♦ K was hardly full value - exactly four hearts and at least five clubs). South overcalled with 24. West passed and North, clearly expecting more for a Two-level overcall, raised to to do. After ruffing, he led his 4 ♣. Whent his came round to West, he chanced a double.

wildest dreams. He led his singleton club and roffed the re-

erence signal for a heart. Wrest sensibly switched to a diamond, for he knew that South held exactly one heart. Mistakenly, Sputh played low from dummy and, after winning with his singleton king, East returned his lowest club. Again this was a McKenney suit preference signal and

02. East trumped with +2 and led yet another club for The result was beyond his the defenders to make their two top trumps separately.

again West knew exactly what

It all added up to 2 turn of \$10 on which declarer delightful bonus of 800 points.



#### The big picture Something Wild Sat 10pm BBC2

Lately there has been more interest in Melanie Griffith's (above) private life than in her movies. Yet she is the marvellously wacko Lulu in Jonathan Demme's genuinely imaginative comedy thriller, Something Wild. As her two partners - one strait-laced, the other psycho - Jeff Daniels and Ray Liotta both give lively performances, but it is Griffith's femme fatale with an unhealthy interest in bondage who steals the show. Like her hair, the film is not atraid to show its dark roots.

## Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert



Divine Magic Sat 8pm C4 Timewatch Sun 7.30pm BBC2 A Mag's Game Sun 9pm BBC1 Ruby Wax Meets... Sun 9.55pm BBC1 Everyman Sun 10.45pm BBC1

surprised, what with that magazine's tendency to tar the world's rich and famous with the same airbrush; in fact it seems rather fitting - especially since the rather distasteful Ruby Wax Meets... "Imelda Marcos" (Sun BBC1) is a Hello! interview from hell: the fawning format brutally subverted. When Imelda says of her late husband. The was a great libertarian and humanist", you really don't need Ruby winking at the camera. But then, subtlety is not Ruby's game.

La Wax, would-be mistress of misrule, not only discovers an old copy of Hello! in Marcos's living room, but one with herself grinning impishly from the cover. The coincidence seems genuine enough - and fortuitous, because Ruby's membership of the Hello! set seems to embolden Imelda to even greater confidences. She doesn't exactly admit to her husband's complicity in assassination and torture - or their assetstripping of the Philippines for 20 years - but she does show Ruby her collection of shoes. Mrs Marcos, having successfully fought off charges against her in New York, is now installed back in the Philippines and in

melda Marcos reads Hello!. We shouldn't be that country's parliament. "One day, no doubt, we'll have OJ for President," quips Ruby. And one day, no doubt, we'll have Ruby Wax Meets ... OI Simpson.

"Oh come on, OJ, let's see the other glove..."

The highlands and islands of Scotland, we have been told countless times, from Whiskey Galore! to Local Hero to Hamish Macbeth, are populated by gently individualistic souls far removed from the irksome realities of modern life. It's an escape fantasy, of course (in America they call it Northern Exposure), and one that Donna Franceschild's excellent new four-part drama, A Mug's Game (Sun BBC1) has no truck with. This is a love story set among the grim realities of the west coast fishing industry, and stars Ken Stott, the hospital DJ from Franceschild's Takin' Over the Asylum, as a Scottish-born Irishman come home to sort out an ailing fish farm.

Alright, class. Hands up who can tell me how and where Sir Francis Drake met his maker? Timewatch (Sun BBC2) reveals that it was off the coast of Panama, where the ageing privateer, heavily calls "happy, clappy, devil-stomping revivalists". It's depressed at having failed to steal the Spanish silver enough to make you tectotal.

reserves - and facing ruin - died, and was thrown into the deep. Shades of Robert Maxwell, in fact.

Now, if you give your body to science, you probably expect researchers to test cancer cultures on your liver, or, at the very least, give your limbs to medical students to play practical jokes with. You probably don't expect to become the first cadaver in over 2,000 years to be mummified using the techniques of the ancient Egyptians. American Egyptologist Bob Brier is the man with the embalming fluid, part of Divine Magic's "Magic of the Mummies" (Sat C4), an unex-

pectedly fascinating overview of Pharaoh culture.

Everyman (Sun BBC2) returns with a typically fair-minded look at the first American-style evangelical Christian satellite channel in Europe, Christian Channel Europe. Joint founder, Wendy Alec, became a born-again Christian while drunk at a disco: she had a vision of Jesus in the ladies' loo. If everyone who had visions while pie-eyed gave their lives to Jesus, we'd be a nation of what CCE's own publicity



#### The big match Super Bowl XXX Sun 10.35pm C4

This is the weekend when supermarkets up and down the country traditionally find their stocks of Budweiser and hot dogs seriously depleted, as gridiron jocks gird their loins for the annual marathon that is the Super Bowl. This year's match at the Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona promises to be more closely-fought than most, as the toffs from the Dallas Cowboys (the favourites, with such stars as Emmitt Smith, above) take on the toughs of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

# Saturday Television and Radio

## BBC1

7.25 News; Weather (4492244).
7.30 Children's BBC: SuperTed. 7.35 The Artbox Bunch. 7.45 Iznogoud, 8.05 Willy Fog. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S)

(8855447). \*
9.15 Live and Kicking. East 17 are the main guests (S) (68383398).

12.12 Weather (6949485). 12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus: FA Cup fourthround preview, 1.10 News, 1.15 Tennis; the Ladie's Final of the Australian Open, 1.50 Skiing: the men's downhill in Sestriere, Italy. Detending his World Cup downhill title will be France's Luc Alphand. 2.15 Ice-Skating: European figureskating championships from Sofia, Bulgaria. France's Surya Bonaly will be the woman to beat. 3.00 Rugby League: live coverage of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie between Castleford and St Helens. Commentary by Ray French, Joe Lydon and Terry Flanagan. 3.50 Football Half-Times. 4.00 Rugby League. 4.40 Final Score

(16756337). 5.15 News; Weather (4014398). \* 5.25 Local News, Weather (3051911).

5.35 Dad's Army. The men acquire a boat (R)

6.05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game (S) (167331). \* 7.00 Noel's House Party (S) (657824). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Dale Winton continues to stand in for Anthea, as diva Lesley Garrett presses the button. But remember: it's not over till the fat lady, etc... (331718).

8.05 Casualty. Tim McInnerny (Captain Darling in Blackadder) guests as a man with a drink problem (S) (326263).

8.55 News, Sport: Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (180331).\*

9.15 EIE A Nightmare in the Daylight (Lou Antonio 1992 US). Charlie's Angel-turned-TV-movie queen Jaclyn Smith plays a teacher who is stalked by a man (Christopher Reeve) who thinks she is his wife, supposedly killed in an earthquake. Shades of Vertigo, but the only people suffering vertigo here are those with too-high expectations of this contrived nonsense, interesting to see Reev playing the bad guy, though (685244). \*

10.45 Match of the Day - the Road to Wembley. Extended highlights of three of today's top FA Cup ties, and all the goals from the rest (2833534).

11.55 Gator (Burt Reynolds 1976 US). Burt Reynolds doesn't seem to have been away from our screens of late - one of those coincidences of scheduling rather than signs of a revival, one hopes. This is Burt's directorial debut, a sequel to White Lightning, in which he resurrected his whisky-runner turned nark, Gator McKlusky. Costars Jack Weston and Lauren Hutton (891485).

1.50 Weather (2867799). To 1.55am. REGIONS. Wales: 4.55pm Wales on Saturday. 5.25 Wales on Saturday.

## BBC2

6.50 EEE Design for Scandal (Norman Taurog 1941 US). Reporter Walter Pidgeon is sent to dig the dirt on lady judge Rosalind Russell – and falls in love with her. Nippy comedy; nice performances

(7470176). 8.15 Terms. Highlights from the ladies' singles final at the Australian Open (57922468). 10.00 Nadan Nadia. Urdu comedy-drama starring Babra

Shariff (S) (63393008). 11.50 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Sabrina, Waiting to Exhale, and Pedro Almodovar's The Flower of My Secret all get re-Bazza'd (S) (5396718). \*

12.20 James Cagney - Top of the World. Tribute narrated by Michael J Fox (R) (9142718). 1.05 FISH Yankee Doodle Dandy (Michael Curtiz 1942 US). A 43-year-old James Cagney turns in a wonderfully versatile song and dance routine in this big, brash patriotic wartime musical, telling the

story of Broadway actor-playwright George M Cohan, who died that year (77191244). 3.10 [188] Tribute to a Bad Man (Robert Wise 1956 US). The amazing Cagney again – this time deputising for Spencer Tracy (who had walked off the set after a quarrel with director Wise), as a ruthless Colorado rancher whose wife (Irene Papas) is receiving too much attention from young Don Dubbins. A fine, underrated and beautifully photographed western (7647094).

4.40 Best of Esther (R) (S) (7325973). 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7686060). 5.50 TOTP2 (S) (706244).

6.35 Ice-Skating: European Figure Skating Championships. Highlights of the week's action

7.15 News and Sport; Weather (647621). \* 7.30 Scrutiny. MPs' attempts to rid the country of arcane regulations, such as a 1780 Act which forbids one to charge for dancing on a Sunday - or much of the red tape surrounding greyhound racing (S) (515060). \* 8.05 The Trial. The re-run real-life Scottish court case

series spotlights defence lawyer George More (R) 9.00 Knowing Me, Knowing You... with Alan Partridge

9.30 Peter York's Eighties. Joan Collins (aka Alexis Carrington), Peter de Savary and Lord Young get walk-on roles, as York remembers the advent of the entrepreneur as star (97466). \*

10.00 ESS Something Wild (Jonathan Demme 1986 US). Jeff Daniels becomes a yuppie-in-peril after he meets wild-child Melanie Griffith. See The Big Picture, above (569878). \* 11.50 Weatherview (946008).

11.55 HER L'Homme de Ma Vie (Jean-Charles Tacchella 1995 Fr/Can). Comedy starring the Portuguese actress Maria de Madeiros, as a woman who is made redundant and decides that hooking a wealthy husband would be better than finding a new job (390331). To 1.45am.

## ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Re:Win.d. 6.40 Eat Your Words, 7.10 Barney and Friends, 7.45-8.55 Saturday Disney 8.55 Power Rangers (2446008).

9.25 Telegantic megavision. Soldier, Soldier actorturned-pop-star Jerome Flynn talks about his love of dolphins, while we get to meet Eliza Szonert, Danielle Stark in Neighbours (4953350). 10,25 Not Just Saturday, Guests include the Shamen

Tristan Banks from Home and Away, and agony unde Nick Fisher (S) (4680244). 11.30 The Chart Show (R) (S) (63398).

12.30 Flantastic (S) (42076). 1.00 News, Weather (73961843). \* 1.05 Local News, Weather (73960114). \* 1.10 Movies, Games and Videos (32666263).

1.40 Airwolf (R) (7621824). 2.45 International Athletics: Great Britain vs Russia. The BUPA International from the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham - the major UK meeting of this

Olympic year (850621). 4.45 News; Sport; Weather (3086089). \*
5.05 Local News, Sport (3628553). \*
5.20 New Baywatch. A master of disguises escapes from a mental hospital, just for the fun of terrorising Stephanie and Logan. You can see his point (S)

6.15 Barrymore. Returning to the studio for the first series of this show since he outed himself (S)

 7.15 Blind Date. How did Amy and James get on in Holland? (Including Lottery Result) (S) (928176). \*
 8.15 Beadle's Hot Shots. Viewers spoof TV and the movies with their camcorders - and sometimes their pets, as in tonight's Dog Trek (S) (248282). \* 8.45 News; National Lottery Update; Weather

9.00 Files Die Hard (John McTiernan 1988 US). Bruce Willis vs Alan Rickman in office-block pyrotechnics, the best so far of these John McClane adventures. Bonnie Bedelia plays the kidnapped wife in a terrific smash-bang-wallop thriller that

made an unlikely action hero out of Willis 11.25 The Dead Pool (Buddy Van Hom 1988 US). Fifth outing for "Dirty Harry" Callahan – and things have gone downhill fast. Clint investigates a spats of slayings that seem to point to sleazo British film director Liam Neeson. This won't make anybody's day (S) (517911).

1,00 Funny Business. With Norman Wisdom acolyte

Lee Evans (73022). 1.30 Pyjama Party. Katie Puckrik gets to grips with

guest Claudia Schiffer (S) (4445577). 2.55 God's Gift (R) (7027461).

3.50 Shift (1361138). 4.45 ITV Sports Classics II (19469886). 5,05 Coach (S) (8427914). 5,30 News (64799). To 6.00am.

## Channel 4

6.05 Sesame Street (R) (2936805). 7.05 Utysses 31 (R) (3004805). 7.30 Super Mario Brothers (R) (6173621).

7.40 First Edition. Jon Snow makes the news accessible to children (3467398). 8.00 Trans World Sport (81176).

9.00 The Morning Line (S) (83447). 10.00 Don't Look Down. Indoor climbing joins the list of minority sports televised on C4 (93737).
 11.00 Gazetta Football Italia. Look forward to tomorrow's live clash between internazionale and Parma

12.00 The Late Late Show (S) (5265824). 12.55 Steaming Passions. Nigel Farrell meets women involved in the more normally male world of steam trains (R) (8063350). \*

1.55 Channel 4 Racing, From Doncaster, If cancelled because of weather, an alternative schedule will be shown as below until 4.35pm (19792973). 1.55 aux Virginia City (Michael Curtiz 1940 US). Ambitious but miscast Civil War western (Humphrey Bogart as a slimy Mexican bandit?) also features Errol Flynn, Randolph Scott and, as a

rebel spy, Miriam Hopkins (S) (19792973). 4.10 Sun and the Sement. 4.35 Dr Seuss on the Loose (R) (7351398). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S) (2635718). \* 6.30 Right to Reply. Roger Bolton with more viewers' reports and ideas about television (S) (263). \*

7.00 A Week in Politics (5060). 8.00 Divine Magic. Egyptologist Bob Brier shows how magic was an everyday part of life in ancient Egypt. See Preview, above (S) (1008). \*

9.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pet. The 1980s Geordie brickies saza. Work at the Manor grinds to a halt when it is discovered to be a listed building (1767534). \* 10.05 Father Ted. TV star Henry Sellers arrives to judge the Alf-Priests Stars in their Eyes Lookalike Competition. Cult comedy (R) (S) (433756). \*

10.35 Eurotrash. Jean-Paul Gaultier and Antoine de Caures lock at the delights of cyber-sex via an interactive sex suit (R) (S) (645350). 11,10 The White Room, With Smashing Pumpkins, the

Pretenders, Lush, Definition of Sound, Oasis, Joan Osborne, and US dance act, BT (SJ (892331). 12.10 Late Licence: The Girlie Show. From last night (R) (S) (8592C41). 1.00 The Legend of the 4 Kings. Manga (\$) (2737935).

1.55 Twilight Zone. Ellict Gould plays an arrogant restaurant critic who gets his comeuppance, while in "A Small Talent For War", the aliens that engineered evolution two million years ago decide that the human race isn't up to scratch, and must bs eliminated (S) (5413312). 2.20 Baadasss TV. Barry White guests (R) (S)

2.50 Big Girl's Blouse (7482770). 3.15 Paris, Alexel Sayle's critically panned attempt to Blackadder-ise the Paris art scene of the 1920s

(R) (S) (681 19), \* To 3,45am.

## **ITV/Regions**

ANGUA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and
Videos (42076). 1.10 Warner Canton (73958379).
1.20 Film: The Magician (5256282). 11.25 Film:
Carry On Henry (711599). 1.05em Pyjama Party (9958157). 2.30em Furny Business (13008).
3.00em Film: Hot (47585). 5.00-5.30em Wanted Dead or Alive (39190).

TYME TEES/YORKSHIRE

THE TES/TORISHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42076). 1.10 Film: The That of the Incredible Hulk (69029350). 5.10 Tyne: Full Time (4000195). Yorks: Scoreline (4000195). 1.05am Funny Business (6963799). 1.35am Pyjama Party (4444848). 3.00am Coach (93886). 3.30am War of the Worlds (5254190). 4.20am Cue the Music (5543138). 5.15-5.30am Profile (6378428).

As Landon except: 12.30pm Heartland (42076). 1.40 Cartoon Time (42365176). 1.50 Knight Rider (4188911). 5.10 Cartoon Time (4000195). 3.50am Jobinder (2463935). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (3441848).

AS London except: 12.30pm California Off Seat (42076). 1.40 Carbon Time (42375824). 1.45 (42976). 1.45 (417485). 11.25 Film: Carry On Henry (711599). 1.05am Pyjama Party (9958157). 2.30am Futny Business (13008). 3.00am Film: Ho! (47585). 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive (79190).

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42076). 1.10 The Big Byte (32676640). 1.35 Warner Cartoon (17850350). 1.50 Airwolf (4) 8911), 11.25 Film: Carry On Henry (711599). 1.05am Pyjama Party (9958157), 2.30am Funny Business (13008), 3.00am Film: Hol (47585), 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (39190).

WESTOCHNIR!
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42076). 1.10 Sturtmasters (1901008). 1.50 Airwolf (4188911). 1.05am Pyjama Party (9958157). 2.30am Funny Business (13008). 3.00am Film: Ho! (47585). 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive (39190).

As C4 except: 7.00am Ulysses 31 (85718). 10.00 Champions: Football Crazy (93737), 11.00 The Persuaders: Someone Walting (3737), 4.35pm Living Memory: The 1980s (7351398), 4.35 Living Memory: The 1980s (7351398), 6.30 Hollycaks (263), 7.00 Newyddion Nos (4008), 7.15 A55 (982114), 8.15 Y Ffordd I John O'Groats (246824). 8.45 Llwytan (245195). 9.20-11.10pm Film Buttarbox Babies. The true-life sto-ry of Life and William Young who instituted the Ideal Maternity Home in Nova Scotia during the Decression and the Second World War. The home was eventually exposed as a front for a catalogue of crimes, including illegal adoption and the bur-ial of illegitimate infants. Staring Susan Clark, Pe-ter MacNeill and Michael Riley (37,5602).

## Radio

#### Radio 1 (97.5-99.8MHz PM)

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 12.30 Danny Baker 2.30 Jo Whitey 5.00 John Peel 7.00 Danny Ramoline 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Est Tour Live in Birmingham 4.00-7.00am Lynn Parsons

Radio 2

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Judi Spiers 12.00 Hayes on Saturday 1.30 Hancock's Half Hour. See Choice. 2.00 Mar-tin Kelner on Saturday 4.00 Nick Barraciough 5.00 Joe Brown i Concert 6.00 Are You Dancin'? 7.00 Dr Who 7.30 The Light Side 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3 190 2-92 4MHz FMO 7.00am Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. John Deathridge compares recordings of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. 10.15 Record Release. Haydn: String Quartet in E flat, Op 33

No 2. Spohr: Septet in A minor. 12.00 Private Passions. With actress Sian Phillips. 1.00 News; Layer by Layer. Ar-chaeologist Andrew Jones concludes his series of dies in Caerwent, the Roman capital

1.25 Youth Orchestras of the World. Victory: March Bizarre. Edward McGulre: Scirocco. Bedford: Sun Paints Rainbows on the Vast Waves, John Barnes Chance: Incantation and Dance. Vaughan Williams: English Folk Song Suite. AJ Potter: Finnegan's Wake (Irish Youth Wind Ensemble/James Cavanagh). Michael Norris: Waltz for strings. Dvorak: Serenade in E for strings (Netherlands Youth String Orchestra/Roland Kieft). 3.10 Harewood House Concert Ernst Kovacic (violin), David Owen Norris (piano), Ravel: Violin Sonata. Brahms: Violin Sonata in A. On 100 Kreisler: ludium and Allegro in the style of Pugnani; Liebesleid; Gypsy Romance; Tambourn chinois; Syncopation; Bercause romantique; La gitana; Chanson Louis XIII and Pavane in the style of Couperin; La Chasse in the style of Cartler; Old German

#### Choice

Angry Hancock devotees dismayed to find Paul Merton mugging his way through Twelve Angry Men last night on ITV can take refuge in Hancock's Half Hour (1.30pm R2). It's the one in which they find an unexploded bomb in the cellar. Meanwhile, Rossini's The Barber of Seville comes Live from the

4.45 Nash Ensemble, Rossini, arr Berr: Wind Quartet No 1 in F. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett previews a major exhibition tocusing on the work of impresario Sergel Diaghilev. 6.30 Live from the Met: The Barber of Seville, By Rossini, Ruth Ann Swenson (soprano), Raul Gimenez (tenor), Chorus and

Orchestra of the Metropolita Opera/Adam Fischer, Act 1. (8.05-8.35 The Met Opera Quiz.) Act 2. See Choice. 9.30 Best Words. Michael Rosen talks to Scottish poet Robert Crawford about his new collection Masculinity.
10.00-1.00am Cedar Walton and James Moody. Alyn Shipton in-troduces highlights of two sets recorded at Ronnie Scott's club

in London, featuring saxophon-ist and flautist James Moody, and pianist Cedar Walton 192.4-94.6AUtz FA; 1981atz LVA) 6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today. 5.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather.

7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; The Week in West-11.30 From Our Own Correspon-12.00 Money Box.

12.25 Just a Minute. 1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby's guests in Margate are Journalist Janet Daley; Baroness Jay of Paddington; the Rt Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, hop of Rochester, and the Rt Hon Sir George Young MP, Sec-retary of State for Transport.

1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Stars in Their Eyes. A radio musical by John Lovat and Tim Riley. With Brian Hibbard. back in the UK after working in

America, compares life here with there.
4.00 News; That's History.
4.30 The Final Frontier. Jez Neison explores the physical and psychological barriers that must be overcome for success

considers the fallout of Norman Fowler's reforms on pension schemes. (4/4). 5.40 Starwatch. From her back garden in Buckinghamshire, Heather Couper presents a live link-up with astronomers around the world, (3/6). 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.25 Week Ending, 6.50 Postcard from Gotham, 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. A celebration of Coleridge's tamous poem The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, featuring the thoughts of David Bedford, Michael Bogdanov, General Sir John Hack-Richard Holmes. 7.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The High Frontier. In Roger Sten-

nett's drama, a cosmonaut is preparing to return home after a year in space. But while he has been away, the old Soviet Union has collapsed and with it his beliefs and dreams. cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev. With David Hargreaves and Shaun Prendergast. 9.20 Music in Mind. 9,50 Ten to Ten. 9.59 Weather.

10.15 Stanza on Stage, Simon

#### poet Glyn Maxwell in performance at the 1995 Edinburgh 10.45 Fedback, Piers Bishop

sorts through letters sent to the Radio Times during the Twenties and Thirties. (1/4). 11.00 Touch of Genius. The popular planist George Shearing, now in his seventies, talks to June Knox-Mawer. (3/4). 11.30 The Hitch-Hitter's Guide to the Galaxy. By Douglas Adams. 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Story: A Trip to

Tortugero by John Latham. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00am As World Service. Radio 5

(693, 909Hz MM) 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Crime Desk 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 Sportscall 1.00 Sport on Five 6.06 Stx-D-Six 7.35 Straight Up 8.05 The Box 8.35 Dallyn on Saturday 10.05 The Treatment 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 After Hours 2.05-6.05am Australian

Classic FM

Virgin Radio

(180.0-101.3MHz FM) 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Countdown 12.00 Classic Garden-ing Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 The Saturday Alternative 6.00 Classic America 7.00 The World Opera Season. Saverio Merca-dente: Orazi e Curiazi. Nelly Miricioiu. Anthony Michaels-Moore, Geoffrey Mitchell Choir, Philharmonia Orchestra/David Parry. 10.00 Classic Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Classic Countdown 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone

11215 1197-1250Mb NW 105 8Mb FM1 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Mark Forrest 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce **World Service** (1984))

1.00am World News 1.10 Press

Review 1.15 The Traditions of the Prophet 1.30 From Our Own Come Propies 1.50 Write On 2.00
Newsday 2.30 The Ed Stewart
Show 3.00 World News 3.15
Sports Roundup 3.30 Fourth Estate 3.45 Science View 3.50 Waveguide 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short Story 4.45 A World in Your Ear 5.00 wsday 5.30 in Praise of God

## **Satellite**

7.00am Undun (236485). 10.00 Ghoul-Lashed (31824). 12.00 WWF (34911). 1.00 The Hit Mix (10331). 2.00 Teech (3398). 2.30 Family Ties (9447). 3.00 One West Walkiki (57398), 4.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (36805), 5.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (6485). 6.00 WWF (30195), 7.00 Sliders (71466), 8.00 Unsolved Mystenes (80114), 9.00 Cops (32089), 9.30 Saturday Night, Sunday Morning (95534). 10.30 Revelations

(50022), 1.00 Saturday Night Live (31490), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long SXY MOVIES 6.00am Sirocco (1951) (92379). 12.00 Super Mario Bros (1993) (95621). 2.00 MacShayne: Winner Takes All (1994) (31282), 3.30 Ab-5.25 Revenge of the Nerds IV: Nerds in

(37534), 11.30 Forever Knight

(17602), 12.30 WKRP in Cincinnati

Love (1994) (29110602). 7.00 Super Mario Bros (1993). Fantasy adventure starring Bob Hoskins (43756). 9.00 Murder One. Countroom drama (62718). 10.00 A Perfect World (1993). Road movie with Kevin Cost-ner and Clint Eastwood (46584176). 12.20 Midnight Confessions (1993) (2194751). 1.50 Used People (1992) (828119), 3.45-6.00am Shootfighter (1993) (96810848).

6.00am Yogi Bear and the Invasion of the Space Bears (83621). 8.00 We're Backl A Dinosaur's Story (1993) (7294718). 9.15 The Corsican Brothers (111824). 10.15 The Morriny Market (1993) (41366602). 12.00 Easy to Love (1953) (93263). 2.00 The Whipping Boy (1994) (52331). 4.00 Seasons of the Heart (1994) (9331), 6.00 A Time to Heal (1994). Drama starring Nicollette Sheridan and Gary Cole (72795), 8.00 The Naked Gun 331/s: The Final Insult (1994). Cornedy starting Lisile Nielsen and Priscilla Presley (77640). 10.00 Needful Things (1993). Horror drama starting Ed Harris and Max Von Sydow (49379), 12.00 Dangerous Touch (1993). Thriller starring Lou Diamond Philips and Kate Vernon (416577), 1.45 Man's Best Friend (1993) (245954), 3.15-6.00am Arcade (1993) (25545916).

CHY MOVIES COLD 4.00pm Star Wars (1977) (6718). 6.00 The Lost Weekend (1945). Drama starring Ray Milland (56195). 8.00 Raggady Man (1881). Remarkic drama starring Sissy Spacek and Eric Roberts (51640), 10.00 Star Wars (1977). Sci-fi circine starting Mark (72035176). 12.05 The Day of the Jackal (1973) (25621003). 2.30-4.10am Nosferatu the Vampyre (1979) (299799).

DIK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (8736263). 7.30 The Pink Panther Show (4791485), 7.35 Going for Gold (1859076), 8,00 Warship (3855244), 9,00 Secret Army (2123466). 10.00 Neighbours (7649602). 12.00 Film: The Prize (8331824), 2.30 EastEnders (79715973), 5.15 Till Death Us Do Part (7915468), 5.50 The Fall and Rise of Regnald Pernn (7516114). 6.30 It Ain't Half Hot Murn (5187398). 7.05 The Upchat Line (8648602). 7.40 Bread (5035534). 8.20 The Bill (12499718), 9.25 Count Dracula (22111114), 10.55 Film: Grievous Bodily Harm (95421737). 12.45 Film: Father, Son and the Mistress (8587138). 2.30-7.00am Shopping (9824409).

SIG SPORTS 7.00am Skiff Sailing (74640), 7.30 Racing News (60447), 8.00 Basket-ball (690447), 10.30 American Sports Cavalcade (10669), 11.30 Futbol Mundial (99398). 12.00 Sports Saturday (9969422). 5.30 Futbol Mundial (6379). 6.00 FA C. Fourth Round Special (18911), 8.00 Ice Hockey – Live (25973), 9.30 Hold the Back Page (48027), 10.30 Bushido (25244), 11.30 Rugby Union Update (77824), 1.30 Hold the Back Back (27824), 1.30 Hold the Back Page (79848). 2.30-3.30am Bushido (98312).

Sity sports 2 7.00am Soccer AM (9895379). 11.00 WWF (7204669), 12.00 Ringside Boxing (6805242). 2.00 Rugby Union - Live (4173094), 4.30 Golf USA (4325398), 6.30 American Sports Cavalcade (2184534), 7,30 Golf USA - Live (1074008), 10,00 Golf USA - Live (4229824). 12.00 World Sport Special (7050935), 12.30-1.00am World of Speed and Beauty (3625799).

9.00am AM Live 10.00 The Fashion Show 11.00 Video Box 1.00 The Week in Review 2.00 Sports Live 6.00 Best of Buzzin' 8.00 Showbiz Live 9.00 The Fashion Show 9.30 Video Box 10.00 Stand-Up Live 11.00 The Sex Show 12.00 Stand-Up Uve 12.30 The Sex Show 1.00EDINBURGH from £58 BELFAST 34 DUBLIN meludes meai & bar service.

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Shepherd's Madrigal; Marche

miniature viennoise. (1/2).

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# at Rocco's gate

the bid, and were asked to prepare a holding statement if an offer materialised. Sir Rocco, for his part, was in Yorkshire, preparing to shoot grouse.

#### 2. Into Battle

Sir Rocco Forte had been chief executive of Forte for 15 years. But he had only really taken full control in 1993, when his father finally stepped aside. Since then, the company had at last begun to make progress. Unwanted assets were sold off. A new chain of hotels, Meridien, was bought and the tired restaurants received attention for the first time in years. The new management team - which included, crucially, Keith Hamill as finance director - was given the benefit of the doubt in the City. The message, that Forte was a company at last on

the mend, was getting through. "We had no idea the bid was coming," says a key advisor on Forte's defence team. "We certainly didn't think someone who knew absolutely nothing about the business would

From the start, then, the battie was all about who could manage the Forte assets best: cost-cutting Robinson, the man who famously worked only four and a half days a week, or Sir Rocco, the patrician workaholic who had long ago abandoned his playboy ways. That the two men did not like each other became clearer by the day. Robinson made fun of Sir Rocco's shooting holiday, while Sir Rocco said famously that "all [Robinson] knows about marketing is his big mouth".

Sir Rocco was appalled that the company his family had built, and that he, at last, was running, could be taken away from him. He was convinced the City would back him if he could just explain his vigorous plans for the future. He returned to London on the day of the bid to a frenzy of calls from shareholders, analysts and

reporters.

That day and the next, a defence team was hastily formed, bringing together Forte's standing advisers, SBC Warburg's John Howath, Mor-gan Stanley's Michael Tory and UBS's Oliver Pawle. An old school friend of Sir Rocco, Roberto Mendoza, was critical to the preparation of Forte's world's top fund managers, Mendoza is vice-chairman of

US banking giant JP Morgan.
"That first day was the low point of the whole bid," says a participant. "Nothing thereafter could match the shock,

surprise and anger."
A shaken Sir Rocco also called in the help of establishment friends, who provided some welcome support in the Jarkest days of the battle. No nore useful ally emerged than Max Hastings, the new editor of he Evening Standard, whose newspaper championed Forte ill the bitter end. Hastings even set up a meeting between Sir Rocco and Sir Christopher Bland, the chairman of LWT at he time of Granada's hostile pid. Sir Rocco was told be could get pointers on Robin-

on's weaknesses. But the hard work occurred at

Forte's head office in High Holborn, where Keith Hamill's finance team put in 17 hours a day for 10 days, preparing Forte's critical defence docu-

From the start, the team considered radical options. including a dismemberment of the company. Sir Rocco would later insist that the demerger plan, whereby the restaurants would be hived off from the hotels, had been in the works for months,

Granada's bid strategy had been simplicity itself: an opening shot of £3.3bn, a merciless attack on Forte's indifferent profit performance and a promise to turn around the key operations.

But Forte's response was, Robinson concedes, "sparkling". Asset dispoals were brought forward, with Lillywhite's and Griersons sold within days of the launch of the bid. On 7 December, Forte released a robust defence document promising sharply higher profits.

A phony war was launched. as the two sides traded insults, rubbished each other's strategy and busily began talking to key institutional shareholders. From the beginning, Granada had decided to leave the field during the middle weeks of the bid to Forte. "We knew that this thing would be decided by 35 institutions," Alien says. We went to them at the beginning of the bid, and then left them a period to reflect."

Forte took another tack, peppering the media with press

Granada

pre-tax profit (£m)

1991 92 93 94

earnings per share (pence)

95

Share prices

relative toFT-A all share index

Granada hurdles flat Forte

releases, Indeed, rival PR firms believe the Forte strategy was too focused on the media, rather than on institutions.

But in secret, Forte was working up its trump card, a move that would change the momentum of the bid and give Robinson his first real fright.

#### 3. The final clash

On Christmas Eve, with Robinson tucked up safe at his ancestral home in Donegal, Ireland, a Sunday newspaper trumpeled the news: brewing giant Whitbread was buying Forte's restaurants business for £1.05bn. The very assets Robinson most coveted were to be sold off in a desperate attempt to foil the bid. By the following week, Forte added the kicker. £800m would be awarded to loyal shareholders through a massive share buy-back

"I certainly had a moment of doubt," Robinson says. There were even whispers that the bid could be dropped altogether. But by the end of the week, he had changed his mind. "We could see that the share buyback wasn't going to work, and that shareholders did not

On the weekend of 6 January, the Granada team began a marathon session at company headquarters. It was time to decide by how much to increase the bid. "We always knew the initial bid was an opening shot,"

an insider says.
Soundings in the City made

**Forte** 

1991 92 93 94 95 96

earnings per share (pence)

pre-tax profit (Em)

it clear that Granada could not raise more money, and the option of a special dividend looked attractive. Ironically, it was the level of financial detail provided in the Forte document that convinced Robinson he didn't need fresh funds: Forte shareholders who sold their stakes to Granada would get the special dividend out of

tor, would pay. At the same time, Lazard were deep in conversations with the Council of Forte to buy the special 50 per cent stake. The Council first demanded £250m, while Granada suggested £10m. On Monday, 8 January, a day before Granada's final offer for Forte was due, the Council and Lazard settled on £50m.

Forte's advisers concede that the revised offer, worth £3.8bn, allowed Granada to regain the momentum. It provided an opportunity, too, for Robinson to drop any pretence about running the upmarket hotels, which he had never much cared for anyway. The revised offer was a blunt leveraged buyout, using Forte's own reserves and the promised sale of £2bn in assets to pay for the deal.

"It was so distressing," a Forte team member says. "Everyone forgave him the Uturn, and that was when we realised everyone wanted him to win

For two weeks thereafter, the bid went Granada's way. The share price, mysteriously, continued to rise, and eight of the top 10 analysts recommended that shareholders accept the bid. Robinson approved a dawn raid, allowing Granada to pick up 9.9 per cent in the market.

The coup de grace was delivered by Carol Galley of MAM, which held 14 per cent of Forte. Famously and controversially dubbed the "Ice Maiden" by the Forte-supporting Evening Standard ("Iron Maiden" was rejected on the grounds of poor taste), she went personally to Sir Rocco's office on Tuesday to announce she was backing Robinson, just as she had in the LWT bid two years before.

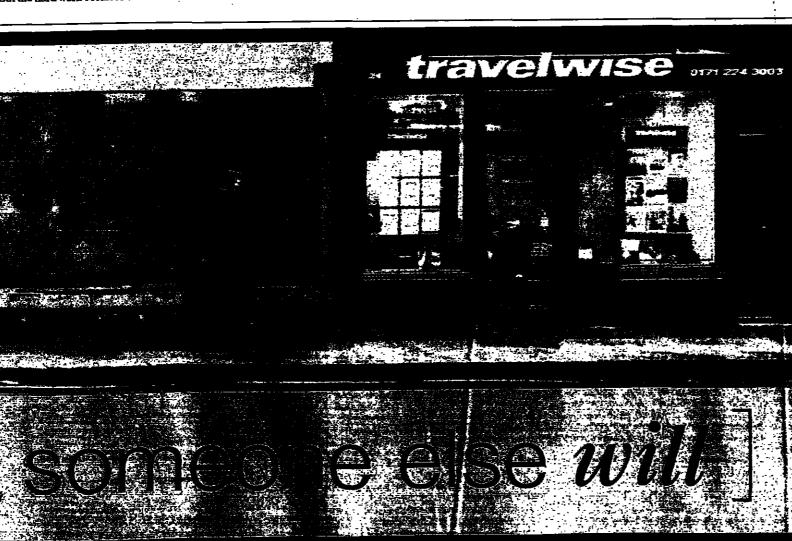
All told, three-quarters of Forte's shareholders backed Robinson. There was, says a close colleague, "a great deal of sadness for Rocco, but he was brilliant on the day.

anti-climatic. "I didn't feel elation, really," he says. "It only now is beginning to sink in."

There will be plenty of news out of Granada and Forte in the months to come. The upmarket hotels will be sold - perhaps even back to Sir Rocco, who is attempting to raise financing. "I'll be back," he promised on the day he lost the empire.

Forte is bound to alter radically the leisure landscape of Britain. Roadside restaurants will get a new look. Many of them will be transformed into fast-food outlets, boasting Burger King or Pizza Hut. Thanks to centralised purchasing and cost controls, hotels will look the same in the North as in the South - the same services, the same food, Granada's defining strategy is a simple one: uniformity drives profit.





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## Bernie's message for Britain: reach for the stars

This week will probably be remembered as Har-I riet Harman's nightmare, the week when the middle classes tormented themselves about the Right Thing To Do when choosing a school - the Week when the country was split over whether Ms Harman should be martyred or canonised.

But she did not express the most potent feelings of the week. We expect privileged people such as Harriet Harman to worry about balancing aspiration and personal ambition against their obligations to the rest of society. They have been torturing themselves for generations. Noblesse oblige, duty, guilt, shame - there is a whole vocabulary available to rehearse their dilemmas.

The really startling revelation came not from Ms Harman, but from Bernie Grant, her fellow Labour MP. As Ms Harman gave a grovelling apology, Mr Grant committed a far greater heresy: he said that he wished he had sent his children to a private school rather than to the local comprehensive in Tottenham, north London. State education had "very, very seriously hampered" their progress. And he - representative of some of Britain's most deprived voters - had had enough of it. His children - and presumably the children of his constituents - deserved better.

Britain is not used to hearing aspirations from these quarters. A prince may aspire to a pauper's life, but the poor man is meant to stay at the rich man's gate. There is still a disappointing acceptance among too many less advantaged people that they should, in fact, know their place. And the place for working-class children is in the state system, however inadequate that may be. They too easily accept what they are given: only the middle and upper classes enjoy the privilege of wrestling with the choice of private education. As for health care, everyone is meant to accept that

"rationing" is inevitable, even good for the soul. Mr Grant's intervention has exposed a lie: the notion that dissatisfaction, ambition and desire to achieve is essentially middle class. A man who has so often been pilloried as Barmy Bernie has become the first modern Labour politician to legit-imise an appetite for self-improvement, a desire for ordinary people to get the best for themselves and their children. Harriet Harman exposed her own guilt-ridden struggles and that of Labour-sup-porting professionals. Bernie Grant did more: he liberated an authentic anger at underachievement felt by the great mass of voters.

This energy was harnessed by Margaret Thatcher, whose policy of selling council houses ditched Labour's paternalism and acknowledged that the wish to own property was virtually universal. But Thatcherism's appeal to ambition and aspiration palled: it tipped over into an associa-tion with greed. It did little to provide ordinary people with better education. Meanwhile, the Nineties recession and housing slump suggested

that Thatcherism had offered empty promises.

Now Mr Grant has opened a road for Labour to express personal ambition - a word which, in British society, and left-of-centre British society in particular, has been made to seem vulgar and unat-tractive. But Bernie's message poses many prob-lems. There is Britain's anti-aspirational culture to overcome, We are more interested in failure than success (just think how the Duchess of York's amazing success in raising \$4m has been belittled).



Prejudice still shuts people out of many jobs where connections, accent and colour of skin play an insidious role in determining who gets to do what. For all the Prime Minister's talk of creating a classless society, his image of warm beer and cricket on the village green recalls a static, classridden country.

The process of diminishing potential starts early. Mr Grant is not the first parent to complain about lack of drive instilled by schools. "The staff believe the kids won't make it," he said. "They don't encourage the kids to fix their aspirations high."

These problems are graphically illustrated in sport, whose chief institutions, be it the MCC or Wimbledon, remain riddled with outdated snobbery that excludes rather than encourages a great deal of potential talent. Combined with the anticompetitive ethos that has overtaken the school sports system, Britain is in the second division of sporting nations, in just the same way as its econ-omy has already slipped down the table. People collude in their own underachievement.

Parents who have been let down by their own edu-cation often fail to expect the best of their own children, and so the cycle of underachievement carries on. In Britain, those who distinguish themselves at school can find themselves isolated as swots. And there is still much begrudging within poorer communities of those who excel: dismissed as class traitors, in league with the toffs and bosses. Political leaders — whether Tony Blair, Paddy

Ashdown or John Major - should recognise the importance of Bernie Grant's intervention. By breaking Labour ranks, he has demonstrated the leadership that is needed to wake people up to chase their ambitions and accept them as honourable and legitimate.

The middle classes are ahead of the game. They realise that they can no longer simply pass mid-die-classness on to their children by giving them the right manners and good connections. John Major's image of inheritance cascading down the generations will not be enough to guarantee their security, as Britain becomes more meritocratic, more competitive. If middle-class families are to hang on to their status, they must give their children skills and education. Nothing, not even Harriet Harman's political ambitions, can be allowed

to stand in the way of that imperative. Bernie Grant understands the urgency. The child of two teachers, an immigrant whose education was his chief asset, he is tuned in to the dangers of today's competitive economy. Most of his constituents are ill-equipped to deal with the future. They risk being left behind.

They need a society that will build and harness their ambitions, not diminish them and so preserve an anachronistic order. That might mean big changes, such as introducing vouchers into the schools system, weighted in favour of the less welloff, empowering parents to do the best for their children. It might involve an expansion of more individually funded health care – the use of alternative therapies is demonstrating the level of personal initiative in health care.

Mr Grant has pointed the way towards fresh thinking from Labour. Many voters - even Labour supporters - are no longer happy with what they are given. They want to seek out their own horizons. Labour should back them.

## ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

#### Who fears elections in Northern Ireland?

From Mr Paul Evers Sir. David McKittrick's analysis of the Northern Ireland situation ("The stalling of peace", 25 January) rings true; as soon as George Mitchell showed signs of removing one spanner from the works, John Major promptly threw another one in.

The question is why? The most charitable explanation is that he does not have fears his proposal would arouse. Many thousands of people in Northern Ireland suffered discrimination and worse for many decades under the yoke of the elected Stormont government, with its built-in Unionist majority. A new elected body, even if it is simply a body of negotiators, will almost certainly suffer from the same imbalance, and any attempt to make it more truly support of the Unionists. John Hume's and the SDLP's Hence the predictable republi-

can hostility to the idea. I suggest that John Major's real reason for this proposal is to create delay. Setting up a new elected hody would prob-

to handle a tricky negotiating situation is to protract the discussions until the heat has gone out of the affair, and sheer weariness leads the opposing

parties to make concessions. This would, however, be a very risky strategy in the current volatile situation. The last thing John Major should want is the prospect of fighting a general election against a background the sensitivity to realise what of renewed violence in Northern Ireland. Many might perceive the cause of that violence as the present government's stubborn immobility in the face of such broadly-based pressure to move the peace process forward. Yours faithfully,

PAUL EVERS Chester 25 January

From Mr Martin Moote hysterical reaction to the Government's proposals for an elected body in Northern Ireland lies in the findings of a recent opinion poll, published in the Belfast Telegraph on 17 ably take many months. There January 1996, which gave SDLP is probably a well-tried Foreign support at only 21 per cent Office axiom that the best way (and Sinn Fein at 7 per cent).

It is also telling to note that in the same poll 70 per cent supported the establishment of an elected body (14 per cent were opposed and 16 per cent answered "don't know"). Of SDLP supporters, 68 per cent supported the proposal (as did 50 per cent of Sinn Fein sup-

porters).

These figures show how far out of touch nationalist politicians are with the electorate they claim to represent. Yours faithfully. MARTIN MOORE

Belfast 26 January

From Mr Peter Marshall Sir: I guess the electorate of Northern Ireland numbers about one million. Well over 200,000 people live in the mainland UK who were born in Northern Ireland. Should we

planned by John Major? The position of Northern Irish people living in Eire may be similar. The position of those living outside the British Isles is perhaps different, since they have truly emigrated. Yours sincerely,

PETER MARSHALL London, SW4

## | Hard- and soft-core currencies in EMU

From Mr Adam Szarf Sir: Considering Gavin Davies' thoughtful analysis of prob-lems likely to face the UK outside the single European currency (22 January), it is rather surprising that no mention has been made so far about the experience gained under the Bretton Woods system, which combined stability of exchange rates with some flexibility in their management.

Exchange rates were fixed in terms of US dollars, but were allowed to change whenever necessary to correct a "fundamental disequilibrium" in a country's balance of payments. This concept was never given a definite meaning, which per-haps was wise considering its complexity. Its interpretation was left to the managers of the IMF and the countries concerned, facing unacceptable employment. The system was Sir. Your editorial on the diffinot perfect, but it worked rea- culties facing the prospect of sonably well for a quarter of a economic and monetary union century after the Second World in Europe (25 January) advo-

War. It came to an end only when President Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in the early 1970s.

Today, external stability could be achieved fixing exchange rates between the "hard" Euro and currencies of the soft core countries on a semi-permanent basis. This would reduce the danger of beggar-my-neighbour devaluations by the latter countries, which is of such concern to German authorities. Similar to Bretton Woods, exchange rates could still be subject to occasional negotiated adjustments, mutually agreed between the inner and outer cores of EMU in situations approximating "fundamental disequilibrium". Yours sincerely. Adam Szarf

cates relaxation of the Maastricht criteria as an alternative to postponing the 1999 deadline. In economic terms, there might be a case for such a step; in political terms, it could well

be disastrous. treaty came into effect, a number of member states have gone to inordinate lengths to meet the Maastricht criteria. This has in many cases involved severe public expenditure cuts and high interest rates, which is the price usually paid for any strict defla-tionary policy. This in turn has caused increases in unemployment and many bankruptcies of small-to-medium firms.

If these criteria are now relaxed for the sake of adhering to the 1999 deadline, there will be some very angry people among these victims, who will conclude that all the sacrifices were not so necessary after all. Yours sincerely,

WALTER CAIRNS

## **AARONOVITCH Food for** e disastrous. Ever since the Maastricht thought At some point during the has been letting me down. It has ruined romantic moments.

Remember? It's not Anthea Turner's younger sister, who is threatening to run her own cable show interviewing lottery winners and has the same line in nasty sweaters as her sister. Her name is Wendy, not Olestra, and I hope that this is the last you'll ever hear of her.

The true Olestra is a fat. "A fat what?" you ask. Not a fat anything - a fat found in foods. On Wednesday, Procter and endless soap powders and foodstuffs, finally got the go-ahead from the US Food and Drug Administration to produce grub made with the new zero-calorie fat. First off the starting-blocks will be Olean potato crisps, containing half the calories of your normal crisps and none of the fat. Cakes, biscuits and chocolate will all follow - all tasting delightfully greasy, but leaving no fat behind them.

I'm not going to waste space explaining the molecular biology of Olestra (which, of course, I fully understand, having attended a grammar school and nearly passed chemistry O-level). Suffice it to say that Olestra's particular property is simply to pass straight

through you. And that, say its critics, is also its drawback. There is a very slight chance that the completion of its passage through the body may be - how shall I put it - unheralded. The usual security warnings may not sound, the gates may fail to close in time. Great for the manufacturers of personal hygiene products (including, perhaps, Procter and Gamble), but appalling for the rest of us. So there is now a suggestion that Olean packets might feature a warning that their contents may "cause intestinal discomfort,

or a laxative effect". Now, some folks may be keen enough on combining a low-calorie diet with the eating habits of a Viennese aristocrat to run this risk, but not me. In my experience, the body is unruly and difficult enough without adding Olestra to it. All my life, this fleshly temple

across a new name: Olestra. spoiled dramatic gestures and failed to respond at times of crisis.

Consider. Adolescence is not a great time of life for any male. At 16, my confidence was shaky, veering from arrogance to a feeling of worthlessness. I wanted two things above all: to be seen as the romantic philosopher-prince that I really was, and (related to this) to get my leg over. Cue the boil. Not a pimple, or a enormous, swollen, angry boil. And not hidden on the leg, or the shoulder, or even the bum, but slap in the middle of my noble, contemplative fore-head. "There you are," it seemed to say, "write a poem about that."

Travellers to exciting, exotic lands will testify to the way that the body's minor caprices can dominate the mind's endeavours. Usually, the problem is food-poisoning. On almost any morning at the foot of the Sphinx, in the gardens of the Taj Mahal, or by the fountains of the Alhambra, there will be one man or woman whose entire being is focused on a square inch of sphincter, and whose only thought (despite all the splendour and history surrounding them) is whether they are going to make it. Next time you are at one of these places, watch carefully. Or indeed (as Wendy's sister might say), it could be you.

The problem is that most of

us have a completely unrealis-tic mental image of our physical selves. It is constructed in early adulthood, at an optimum time. We "know" we are fat, or baid, or pant when we run upstairs. But somehow those awful holiday snaps lie, those jibes from family and colleagues exaggerate. We carry around with us our true selves: younger, thinner, more graceful and fitter. And then something goes wrong - a bad bout of flatulence, a sty, a millisecond's clumsiness - and the image dissolves, leaving us face to face with mortality.

Which, I contend, does not need some new product like Olestra to make it any worse.

#### Why destroy young love?

From Mr Peter Tatchell Sir: Your thoughtful, compassionate editorial ("Sad tale of a modern-day Juliet". 25 January) on the hounding of the 13year-old child bride. Sarah Cook, was a much-needed corrective to the hysterical, heartless reaction of the Turkish and British authorities. Although her marriage may be unlawful. there is no evidence that Sarah was coerced into, or harmed by. the relationship with Musa Komaegae, Indeed, she appears to have been very happy - until the heavy-handed intervention of officialdom.

Why the authorities should want to for be allowed to; break up the love between these two teenagers is beyond my comprehension, isn't there enough emotional unhappiness

give the impression, unin-

tended I'm sure, that Fats was

something of a lightweight

when it came to playing pool.

from the truth: Fats was the

most respected, if not feared.

pool player of his generation.

the hustler's hustler, the real article. In some of those tele-

vised matches with Willie

Mosconi, at least the ones I

recall from the 1970s and early

1980s, Fats's on-air challenges

to put down some real dough

were rebuffed by his

smoother, more polished rival.

knew the difference between

playing a meaningless exhibi-

ion for the benefit of a mainly

ignorant audience and playing

for real stakes. Fats would have

had Mosconi - and indeed had

him numerous times, away

from camera shot - for lunch.

Sincerely, GEORGE R. CRISP

London, W14

Good reason, too: Mosconi

Nothing could be lurther

needlessly to it? Moreover, in | Short on an era when youth promiscuity is widely condemned, one would expect society to welcome Sarah's and Musa's love and fidelity, rather than seek to

destroy it. The authorities claim that they have Sarah's welfare at heart. However, it's hard to envisage that her welfare is best served by forcing her to undergo the humiliation of a so-called "virginity test" and by chargingthe man she loves with rape, despite the evidently consensual nature of their relationship.

Astonishingly, even though Sarah has talked of suicide if she is kept apart from Musa, officials seem prepared to risk the possibility of such a tragedy. Yes, there is real harm being done to this young girl, but it's not being done by her hoyfriend. Yours faithfully.

PETER TATCHELL in the world without adding

#### Michelangelo **Hustler Fats** last seen in 1902 From Mr George R. Crisp

From Mr Anthony Stones, FRBS

Sir: Further to your report ("Art world agog over NY's 'new Michelangelo', 24 January) of the discovery of a lost Michelangelo sculpture in New York City, the same piece, described as an "Apollo", is illustrated (plate 30) in a paper-back hank published in 1969 by

The book, Michelangelo Scuptore, is by Alessaandro Parronchi. In his note about the sculpture (p 34), he wrote that its present whereabouts were unknown but that it had been seen offered for sale at Christics in 1902. Yours sincerely. ANTHONY STONES Oxford

## consistency

From Ms Josephine Toynbee Sir. I agree that Harriet Harman's choice of school for her son was a purely personal, family decision that she had to take in his best interests, within the context of this Government's relentiess underfunding of non-grant maintained

I am just amazed that Clare Short could publicly criticise her sister MP, saying she must answer to her constituents for her choice". I am a member of Ms Short's own Ladywood constituency Labour Party. Here there has been no answerability for nearly a year. Our con-stituency has been suspended and we were forbidden to hold meetings and excluded from the important national debates at the Clause Four and annual conferences.
We are still unable to get a

clear reply from the Labour Party on the grounds for these suspensions, the progress of its inquiry or what we can do to be reinstated. Meanwhile, Clare Short, as sitting MP is very likely to be imposed as candidate for the next general election, bypassing all local consultations or selection procedures. Yours faithfully,

22 January

#### Name of the @

From Mr Roger Chap "@" (Letters, 24 January) Yours faithfully,

#### Ptolemy's heliocentric universe

From Mr W. K. Harper Sir: Tom Wilkie ("Journey to the beginning of time", 24 January) puts The Almagest of Ptolemy (2AD) as the beginning of the advance of astronomy, but it was in fact a retrograde step that began a 13th-century interlude from Greek science until the recovery of Copernicus and Galileo in the 15th century. This was because the Catholic Church adopted, and made into dogma, The Almagest, its Earth-

centred solar system and

use. But in the coming decades

a rapidly increasing number of

80- and 90-year-olds are going

to feel - or be persuaded by

others to feel - that they can no

longer comfortably drive. This London, NW5

From Ms V. M. Roberts

"divine" universe, and all scien-

tific progress was blocked in Christian Europe. In 390BC, Heracleides suggested that Venus and Mercury may orbit the Sun; Democritus (c.380BC) described the Milky Way as being composed of stars, the Moon as being similar to the Earth and matter composed of atoms: Aristarchus of Samos (c.270BC) asserted that the Sun is the centre of the solar system and the planets revolve round it. Aristarchus estimated the dis-

and easy in availability.

Yours faithfully,

V. M. ROBERTS

W.K. HARPER Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent

tance of the Sun from the Earth

by observation of angles; Eras-

tothenes of Cyrene (c.240BC)

calculated the circumference of the Earth as 28,000 miles, and

Hipparchus of Nicea (c.130BC)

used a total eclipse of the Sun

to determine correctly the dis-

tance and size of the Moon.

Seleucus, about 190 BC, was the

last Greek astronomer to teach

a heliocentric theory of the

#### Ageing travellers at a time of life when it is para-Animated viewing

Yours faithfully,

mount for good health to main-From Mr Geoffrey Brace tain outside interests and go out

Sir: Demography is not often to see family and friends. Has mentioned in discussions of car it been considered that they Sir: May I, through your columns, point out to the comto see family and friends. Has may provide a growing demand pilers of the British Attitudes Survey (report, 25 January) that "watching television" canfor public transport, affordable not by any stretch of the imagmation, be classed as a "leisure time activity". The classing of cinema, ballet, opera, theatre and music as "activity" is also questionable, to say the least where it refers to the passive process of watching or listening

GEOFFREY BRACE Topsham, Devon

## QUOTE UNQUOTE

Every morning we've been having breakfast together not knowing if we will be having support together - Pandora Maxwell, whose husband, Kevin, has been acquitted on multi-million pound fraud charges.

We don't care what people say. Our little princess is in love - Jackie Cook, mother of Sarah, 13, who has married a Turkish waiter. Thanks to the gloomy calculations of middle-age mortality, made for the protection of life insurance companies, we know that three Conservative MPs will die before the end of this summer - Roy Hattersley, Labour's former deputy leader.

We Scots can take a girl out, wine and dine her, satisfy her every sexual whim, marry her, have children, get divorced – and still have change from a fiver – Dominik Diamond, presenter of Channel 4's 'Gameimaster'.

We're perfect for each other. We both love getting out of our heads - Oasis rocker Liam Gallagher on his romance with actress Patry

Scotland is the only nation in the world to have discovered oil and grown poorer - Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National



Sir: In an otherwise fine obituary of Minnesota Fats (24 January). Mike Shamos did

Sadea/Sansoni of Florence.

JOSEPHINE TOYNBEE

Sir. Ampersand (&) derives from "and per se and" so surely should be called "amperseat", Roger Chapman Keighley, West Yorkshire

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# ne stars

# What follows the triumph of Trimble?

The peace process rests on the Unionist leader's plans, says David McKittrick

Ulster Unionist hearts swelled with pride this week when John Major rose in the Commons to endorse David Trimble's suggestion that an election should become the centrepiece of the Irish peace process.

The sweetness of the moment was increased by Mr Trimble's quietly statesman-like response to the Prime Minister. Most of all, it was heightened by the clear discombiture of SDLP leader John Hume, who angrily accused Mr Major of seeking to buy votes. Unionists have become glumly accustomed to being pilloried as obstacles to peace and progress. The sight of Mr Hume,

He has yet to win the trust of those with whom he will deal. A Catholic priest spoke of him having 'ogre status' among nationalists

incensed and isolated in the House, was for them a rare and welcome reversal of roles. It is much more common to see Mr Trimble in a temper than Mr Hume. In that moment, the veteran nationalist leader appeared to have been bested by Mr Trimble's new Unionism.

It may be that the triumph was beginner's huck for Mr Trimble, who has led his party only since September. Or it may be that his proposal for an elected body simply suited the Government's objective of maintaining a slow pace in the peace process. Or it may be a new era of a more constructive Unionism, though few non-Unionists are yet convinced. Last September, Mr Trimble was the surprise choice of his party to succeed the septuagenarian James Molyneaux; most thought the job would go to the man who is now his deputy - John Taylor. Instead, the party opted for Mr Trimble, the youngest and most militant of the five candidates on offer.

What swung the election for him was his reputation as an uncompromising hardliner as epitomised by his performance several months earlier at what is known as as "the siege of Drumcree". This was the incident in which Mr Trimble, an Orangeman, played a leading role in resisting a police ban on an

Orange plan to march through a Catholic district in Portadown, Co Armagh.

The 48-hour stand-off was attended by The 48-hour stand-off was attended by some disorder, and only yesterday, 15 people appeared in court on charges arising from it. But it has entered Orange folklore as a famous victory for loyalist determination not to back down in a confrontation, and it helped get Mr Trimble his job. The party also liked his relative youth, his articulacy and his accomplished television performances.

He had been MP for Upper Barn, one of Northern Ireland's most hitter sectarion cock.

Northern Ireland's most bitter sectarian cockpits, for only five years before his elevation, although he has a political track record stretching back to the early Seventies. Almost all of that time was spent on the far right of Unionism, as a member of a number of politically extreme organisations and, since 1978, of the main Ulster Unionist party.

Throughout those years, he was a law lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, A series of Catholic employees have won religious discrimination arrangement the university but

crimination cases against the university, but Mr Trimble has made no secret of his belief that the real story is one of discrimination against Protestants. At Queen's, he met his second wife, who was one of his students. Together, they have four children; she works in his constituency office in the mornings, describing herself as "the domestic back-up." They listen to Verdi and Strauss, and he is fond of Wagner.

On his election, Mr Trimble hit the ground running, arranging a comprehensive series of meetings with most parts of the political spectrum - except, of course, Sinn Fein - in Belfast, London, Dublin and Washington. This was a real departure for a Unionist leader, for his predecessor was a model of reserve and reticence, instinctively shying away from such encounters.

The Trimble style, however, has not been to use such meetings to build bridges, or win friends and influence people. Instead, peuting for directness rather than diplomacy, putting his points in meantable forceful. his points in reportedly forceful manner. Assuming the plans for an elected body go ahead, a key question will be whether he would attempt to move away from the traditional Unionist approach of treating such institutions as gladiatorial arenas.

The main pointers against his doing so lie in his hardline record and in the huge amount of mistrust that exists in Northern Ireland politics and Anglo-Irish relations. One feature of Mr Trimble's politics is that he exudes distrust of his political opponents.

He has regularly accused nationalists of act-



ing in bad faith. He has often expressed mistrust in British governments, too. In launching his leadership campaign, for example, he declared: "I would never go into Downing Street alone. You've got to have someone else with you to take notes, observe and listen carefully; one must be careful not to be seduced."

Conversely, he has yet to win the trust of those with whom he will deal. No significant northern nationalist figure has given signs of being persuaded that Mr Trimble is serious about wanting to reach an agreement with their tradition. A Catholic priest spoke of him having "ogre status" among nationalists.

Nor is there any sign that government ministers are opting for an election on the basis of any belief that Trimble looks ready to make

a new historic accommodation, for they have often privately complained of his aversion to compromise. It was only a few months ago that a minister spoke of seeing the Unionist leader described as a moderate: "I was having my breakfast when I read that. Nearly puked up my Frosties."

Mr Trimble is the man of the moment, but

what has not yet emerged is his view of the strategic direction Unionism should be taking. It is not clear whether he believes in stalling, in the event that the ceasefires eventually break down, or whether he really envisages, after the election, sitting down for the first time with Sinn Fein. A great deal, perhaps even peace itself, will depend on the course he chooses.

## A matter of reputation and honour

Tory attempts to rubbish the Scott inquiry may backfire, says Andrew Marr

The Conservative establishment is getting its retaliation in first. With the so-called "arms-to-Iraq" report due next month, its author Sir Richard Scott has been presented to readers of the Spectator and Daily Express as a naive obsessive, a cranky radical, and a fan-tasist whose findings, should they happen to criticise minis-ters, will be ignored by fair-

minded people.

Rarely has a senior judge been subjected to such contemptuous personal attack by public figures as in the articles by Lord Howe and Sir Bernard Ingham. But then, rarely has any judge probed so painfully into the dark recesses of agonisingly difficult policy-making in Whitehall. In the Speciator, Lord Howe derides the judge's "disposition to challenge convention, defy precedent" and his "tenacious enthusiasm for his own views". Sir Bernard says that the judge is not only wet but is "waterlogged".

Both critics contend that Scott has been unjust to ministers by not allowing them vocal legal representation, against precedent. This implies that assorted ministers are retarded inarticulate souls, unable to speak for themselves. Was the Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell - like Lord Howe, a QC - disadvantaged by his lack of legal representation? Poor dears. More generally, both attacks smoke with outrage at the arrogance of a mere judge prying into decisions of minis-ters and civil servants; that Scott was appointed by the Prime Minister to do it is not,

it seems, of much relevance. It is impossible to take Sir Bernard's assault wholly seriously: Ingham defending due process and complaining that a rather mild-mannered judge has been "astonishingly adver-sarial" is like the Princess of Wales lecturing the nation on "Least said, soonest mended."

Lord Howe is in a different category. His attack is detailed, dogged and long-standing. He He is unlikely to have been put up to anything. But it is possible and also a handy weapon in what is becoming a political battle, not one about judicial process. If there is any covert politics in Scott it's there, only more so, in Howe, Ingham and so on.

As soon as the report is published, the counter-attack will move from the pages of conservative newspapers to West-minster. Howe and Ingham are laying down the arguments to be picked up then by selected MPs, who will form a protected phalanx around any vulnerablelooking minister. By the time John Major is called upon to respond, Scott himself and his inquiry generally will have already been subjected to heavy rubbishing. Downing Street has been ringing around in an attempt to co-ordinate the response. For an example of the kind of operation we should expect, look no further than the co-ordinated response to Major's performance in the summer leadership contest, which killed speculation about whether his vote was a convincing one within five minutes of it being announced.

This time the objectives are two-fold. First, to prevent any ministerial resignation that would badly damage the Government just when the Conservatives are beginning to hope that their fortunes are on the turn. Second is the broader attempt to refute any suggestion that this administration is ruthless, high-handed or amoral. It is a fight about rep-

utation, even honour.

If the judge really goes for Sir Nicholas Lyell and others we will see a competition between Conservative politicians and the judge for the public's verdict. The press will split on broadly left-right lines. So, with a few maverick exceptions, will the Commons. My guess is that the ministers will probably survive for much the same reason as Harriet Harman survived this week: the leader's backing will be absolute, on the "we all hang together or we all hang

separately principle.

But the wider political verdict will probably go the other way: it is easier for a judge to dishonour politicians than for politicians to dishonour a judge. And Conservatives need couldn't confect anger he didn't to be very careful about the feel if his life depended upon it. tone of the operation on which they have embarked. If you are trying to persuade voters that to be an honest critic of Scott you are not a ruthless or arrogant administration, then engaging in a ruthless or intemperate denigration of a judge you appointed doesn't seem a good way to go about

# Jo Brand's wee

Nice to see that Tiggy Legg-Bourke (unfairly berated maiden) has joined forces with Peter Carter-Ruck (toffs' lawyer). A pair of more silly names I have not heard for a very long time. This spat between the members of the upper echelons of society is desperately dull, especially as we don't know for sure, despite tabloid speculation, what Diana said to Tiggy at the staff

I have said some terrible things to people at parties for the simple reason that I was tanked up. Just getting Tiggy's name correct when you've had a couple of Babychams is in itself a bit of a triumph, I would imagine. Now the hangovers have well and truly cleared up, perhaps they should all grow up.

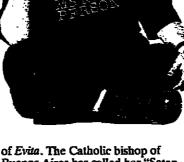
Marrying off your daughter, aged 13, to a Turkish waiter seems to me a very medieval thing to do, not to mention the fact that Enid Blyton must be revolving at the speed of light in a mausoleum somewhere. Everyone is throwing their hands up in despair and asking how the parents could possibly have given their blessing. Because they are stupid, one would imagine. I often think that because anyone with the correct equipment can have a baby, there are always going to be parents who are hopeless at parenting, at which point we call upon social workers to step into the iman relations equivalent of Catch 22. If they don't do



something, they're criticised, and if they do, nobody gives them any credit anyway – all the job satisfaction of a punch-bag, I'd say. The father of the bride touted his story round the papers, like they do, and sold it to the highest bidder. Unlikely to be the Financial Times, wasn't it? It was rumoured be got paid 20 grand. Is that the going rate for a dowry? Must tell my dad. Meanwhile, in Turkey, our waiter has been accused of rape and the Cook bride has been made a ward of court back here. Surely they must all be in some way related to the Mitchell family in EastEnders. Truth is stranger than fiction - and a lot sadder.

My brother is currently nguishing at home in Germany having had his arm broken in two places after an accident during a friendly game of football. It's funny how "friendly" games always seem to produce more injuries. This particular game involved my brother's firm and a team of Croatians from a sports club. My poor brother took the full force of a shot at goal on his arm as he tried to save it. "They all take the game so seriously," he told me. Perhaps we could have guessed that.

Poor old Madonna is getting it in the neck from the Argentinians at the moment because she has taken on the role of Eva Perón in the film



Buenos Aires has called her "Satan in drag." (He sounds like a laugh. Perhaps they should get him on Have I Got News For You). Maybe they should offer Margaret Thatcher the part. That would really be interesting.



The most popular television show in Moscow at the moment is a live action crime programme hosted by someone blonde, pretty and aged 20, so we can reassure ourselves that they are cottoning on fast to Western democratic values. Aforementioned presenter rusbes attractively all over Moscow

covering the most gruesome murders, sparing the viewers nothing as a cavalcade of purple bloated bodies are served up for their delectation. Just in case people are having their dinners, light relief is

supplied by a parade of crime

suspects bandcuffed to policemen. And very difficult it is to tell which is which. This type of programme seems to be closing in on us from all sides. We do have Crimewatch UK, but that all tends to be in the best possible taste and leaves out the blood and guts. The only educational aspect of these sort of in-yer-face crime shows is that they make you realise how much more of an attractive prospect it is dying on Hollywood celluloid than it is in real life. Apart from that, they are pointless.

On the whole, I get quite nice letters from viewers when the television series is on. This may well be because my agent tends to chuck out all the horrible ones threatening unmentionable things and berating me. However, the occasional poison missive slips through, particularly if it has gone to the BBC by mistake. One such charming and eloquent sonnet piopped onto my mat the other day and I recognised the writing immediately, as I have received several items from this person in the past. The content isn't imaginative particularly and combines the nouns "slut" and "slag" with a Roget's Thesaurusworth of adjectives for fat. As per usual, the name and address were completely unintelligible, not even allowing me the satisfaction of sending the person in question a

Sometimes it's quite hard to get good reception on Teletext. so consequently I am presented with what looks like a half-finished crossword in which I have to fill in the missing letters by guesswork. Having missed the news the other day, I turned it on to see the adline, Blair -acks Har-iet Harman. Well done, old son, I thought, you've sacked her. A quick twiddle of the aerial revealed it was a "b", not the "s" I surmised. I don't



Harriet: Likely to keep her -ob

It seems Belgium has privatised deportation. A recent investigation showed the Belgian governmemploys a firm called Budd, (wouldn't a "y" on the end have been great?) to do it. The journalist who did the story said: "The government uses methods advocated some years ago by the extreme right." Without the eclectic mix that different ethnic groups bring to a country, no wonder Belgium is such a tedious place. I always liked that joke that goes: Why did the Belgian chicken cross the road? Because there's nowt else to do in Belgium, of course.



thank-you letter. What a shame. I

bet a poison pen pal could be loads

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098 Sainsbury's profits warning shocks City

NIGEL COPE

Sainsbury's shocked the City yesterday when it issued its first profits warning since it floated on the stock market in 1973. The company said profits in the current year would be "below earlier expectations due to increased spending on customer service measures, keener pricing in its supermarkets and a poor performance from Texas Homecare, which is struggling in the cut-throat DIY market. The announcement forced analysis to downgrade their full-

year profit forecasts from as high as £810m to between £750m and business and there could be £760m. This is significantly lower last year's £809m and breaks the company's unbroken run as a public company, during which it has reported higher trading profits each year.

The profits warning wrong-footed City analysts, who had felt the group was turning the cor-ner after a difficult 1995 during which it lost ground to Tesco and Asda. Tony MacNeary of Nat-West Securities said: This shows the business. New management initicant boost to sales.

more costs to come.

Sainsbury's shares fell 21.5p to 389p on the news. The slump wiped out gains earlier this month when the City had responded warmly to a boardroom shake-up which saw David Sainsbury split the roles of chairman and chief executive.

The warning overshadowed a relatively upbeat statement on sales increases, which showed that the January Savers price there is still a lot more to do in promotion had provided a sig-

Mr Sainsbury said the group was keen to regain its market shares leadership over Tesco but admitted it might take time. That will remain our objective but I don't think [it will happen] this year," he said.

Supermarket sales in the 16 weeks to 13 January were up by 3 per cent on last year, excluding new store sales. Trading over the Christmas period was healthy at 4.5 per cent up on the previous year. In the peak pre-Christmas week, sales broke the company's previous record by a

8 per cent increase reported by Tesco last month, though this was achieved on a lower margin due to the launch of its loyalty card. SavaCentre performed strong-while the Homebase DIY chain increased sales by 4.5 per

David Sainsbury denied that the announcement had contained any shocks and said he was pleased with the supermarkets' performance: "Things are now heading in the right direction. We are investing heavily to improve the service and

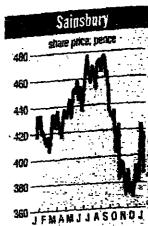
The figures are lower than the value for money provided by our supermarkets and this has resulted in an improving sales

> Sainsbury's has added 2,500 more supermarket staff at a cost of around £10m. These will be employed on checkouts, service counters and as packers.

David Sainsbury said the management restructure was now complete and dismissed suggestions that the group needed an operations director. We appointed a new retail director, David Clapham, only four or five months ago. We

have a good, strong team. However, the Texas Homecare chain, which Sainsbury's bought from Ladbroke a year ago, has continued to struggle. Sales in the 16 weeks to mid January fell by 7.5 per cent, due to store closures. Kitchen sales were slow.

Sainsbury's had been saying that the chain would break even over the full year but some analysis are now forecasting a loss of up to £10m. It is expected that the stores' performance will improve when they are re-branded under the



# Persimmon rights to fund Ideal bid

TOM STEVENSON

The acrimonious battle for control of Trafalgar House subsidiary Ideal Homes will come to a head early next week when Persimmon - which controversially secured an exclusive negotiation period for the deal makes a formal offer of about £150m and launches a rights issue to part-fund the acquisition.

Persimmon's talks with Trafalgar sparked a row two weeks ago with rival housebuilder Beazer Homes, which claims to have been shut out of discussions to buy Ideal.

Beazer said yesterday it was holding its own fire until it saw the size and terms of the offer. but it was still considering its options, including the possibility of appealing directly to Trafalgar House's independent share-

Persimmon's exclusivity period, which is understood to run out at the end of the month. caused a furore because it was seen as a cosy deal stitched up between the Persimmon nonexecutive director Sir Chips Keswick and Trafalgar House, which is 26 per cent owned by the Keswick-controlled Hong Kong Land. Trafalgar maintains that Persimmon's offer was superior to any others in a number of unspecified respects and not just financially.

Duncan Davidson, chairman of Persimmon, was locked in for his first acquisition

meetings yesterday and unable to comment on the acquisition which would be the first such deal since Persimmon came to the market 10 years ago. If the deal goes ahead, Persimmon will jump up the league table to fourth place behind Wimpey.

Barratt and Beazer. Beazer, which is twice the size of Persimmon, insists that it is better placed to move quickly to complete the acquisition because its offer would be financed principally from its own cash resources and bank borrowings.

The Persimmon proposals are thought to include a onefor-two rights issue to raise just over £100m. for which underwriting will be sought on Mon-

day.
Once that is arranged the terms of the bid might be an-



Duncan Davidson: heading

Tuesday. Trafalgar needs to tie up the deal as soon as possible to reduce debts of more than £200m.

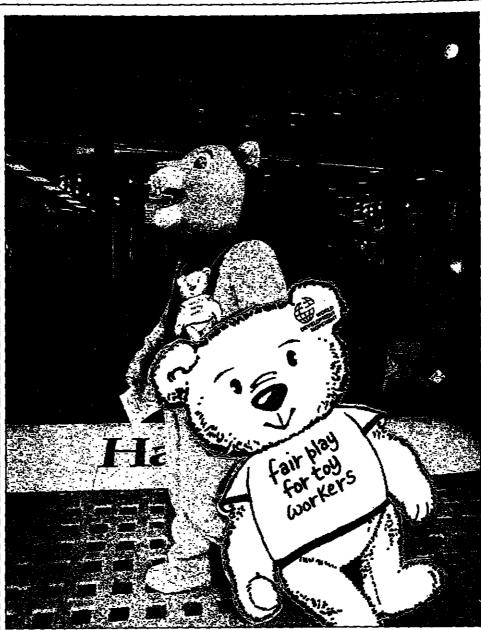
Last month it stunned the City with annual losses of £321m, nearly twice the level predicted by some analysts. The conglomerate's shares collapsed last year, although at 32p. they are well above their low of 21p.

The planned disposal of Ideal, one of the group's most profitable divisions, follows the sale at the end of last year of some of Trafalgar's most high profile trophy assets, including the Ritz hotel, acquired by the secretive Barclay brothers for

Ideal made doubled operating profits last year of £19m. It has 100 development sites which at the end of the year to September included 6,600

The struggle for control of Ideal confirms a resurgence of interest in the housebuilding sector, where share prices have risen sharply in recent weeks in anticipation of higher levels of ( activity this year.

Berkeley Homes, one of the sector's most successful companies launched a rights issue ( earlier this week to buy extra building land while Alfred McAlpine pulled out of general construction work to focus in part on its own housebuilding



Dressing down: A protester sporting fancy dress outside Hamleys toy shop in central London yesterday during a demonstration against conditions for factory workers in Asia. Some are paid 42p per hour for a 60-hour week Photograph: Alastair Grant/AP | details on agreements without

## Colorvision credit licences withdrawn

GLENDA COOPER

The Office of Fair Trading has decided to withdraw the consumer credit licences of Colorvision, the television and video stores chain after a series of alleged dishonest practices including supplying second-hand

goods, presenting them as new. But the company will retain the licences until the outcome of an appeal lodged against the decision with the President of the Board of Trade, lan Lang.

The OFT had threatened to revoke the licences in October. following customer complaints.

An OFT adjudicating officer found the Liverpool-based company to have committed offences under consumer protection legislation and to have "engaged in business practices appearing to him to be deceitful or oppressive or

otherwise unfair or improper". If Mr Lang upholds the OFT's findings, Colorvision will not be able to deal in any form of consumer credit or credit brokerage. That would be a major blow for the group which makes about 45 per cent of its sales under credit arrangements. The complaints included giving misleading price indications and hand or ex-display goods, telling customers they could not cancel agreements when it was in their right to do so and altering

consumers' consent after they had been signed. Other wrongdoings were using advertisements which were deliberately misleading about the goods available, not offering refunds where consumers had a right to them, failing to carry out services agreed in repair contracts within a reasonable time or at all.

ont

The director-general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman said: Revoking a consumer credit licence is not something we do lightly given the effect it is likely to have on a business. But no company should be in any doubt that its licence can be revoked if it is treating its customers unfairly or dishonestly.

The OFT said Colorvision had 10 convictions for trading offences such as false and misleading advertisements, while its subsidiaries had 10 similar convictions.

But Alan Tinger, its managing director said the company would be "vigorously" appealing against the OFT's decision.
In a statement the group

said: "The adjudicating officer found that Colorvision had been convicted of 20, mainly advertising, offences in the space of 11 years. But in his detailed determination, the adjudicating dishonestly supplying second officer accepted that the company had improved its business practices' in this area and had gone to great lengths 'to ensure 🚜 that it kept its advertising with-

## Fokker gains brief reprieve

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor** 

Fokker, the stricken Dutch aircraft maker, was yesterday given a five- to six-week reprieve by its government while a search continues for a buyer. Hans Wijers. Dutch economic

affairs minister, said the government was making an interim loan of 255m guilders (£100m) and would also bring forward the purchase of four Fokker jets vorth 110m guilders. Mr Wijers played down the

chances of a rescue from any quarter. He said: "There is no reason whatsoever for great optimism. The company faces very great problems." Partners still had to be found for Fokker in a very short period in an industry with "large financial risks. continuing overcapacity and ruinous prices. For the time being it is just words and paper."

The cash holds out hope to Shorts Brothers, the Belfast company where about 800 staff depend on supplying wings for Fokker's planes.

On Tuesday, Fokker sought court protection from creditors for its three aircraft subsidiaries. ending a long struggle to keep the 76-year-old company afloat.

The move came after Daimler-Benz, Fokker's German majority shareholder, said it could no longer support losses at Fokker, which is minority owned

by the Dutch government. There has been persistent speculation that Canadianbased Bombardier, owner of Shorts, is interested in buying Fokker, but so far neither Bornbardier nor Fokker has confirmed talks are taking place.

Bombardier has a reputation for buying and turning round companies in difficulty. It makes regional jets and executive and commuter aircraft such as the Canadair RJ and Challenger, de Havilland Dash 8 and LearJet.

Fokker has however confirmed it is talking to a number of aerospace companies around the world without naming them.

Analysts expect that if Bombardier does buy Fokker it will do so only after the Dutch government has cleaned it up. The price is thought likely to be purely nominal

Mr Wijers said the amount agreed with the administrators was based on providing enough time to produce a reasonable seenario, while preventing it from dragging on so long that the assurances would disappear."

# Stakis wants to buy mid-market Forte hotels

JOHN EISENHAMMER

Stakis, the hotel and casino group, has thrown its hat in the ring to buy some of the midrange hotels acquired by Granada following its suc-cessful bid for the Forte

group. David Michels, chief executive, said yesterday he hoped to have talks soon on the subect with Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive. The two men are close and were in contact during the bid battle for Forte, but no formal talks concerning the hotels purchase have been held.

"We're not interested in the Trophy hotels or the Meridien chain, but we would be keen on buying some of the three- and four-star hotels," a Stakis spokesman said, "Whatever Robinson might put up in London, any or all of them would be within our grasp."

The defeated Sir Rocco Forte has announced his intention to get City backing to repurchase the upmarket

"I think Rocco is after the more luxury and international hotels, and we are after the more mid-market hotels, if any are for sale." Mr Michels said.

A leading analyst said: cy rose to 72 per cent and the on the bid, are believed to have "Stakis is probably one of the best run businesses in the UK sector. They have the highest rate of return. A deal could make a jot of sense.

Stakis has been steadily expanding its hotel business for the past two years, which helped the group to a 28 per cent profits increase to £26m in 1995, despite a decline at its

The group currently has 43 hotels with a total of just over 5,000 rooms. It issued an upbeat trading

statement yesterday, saving that in the 13 weeks to the end of December, room occupan-

casino business showed modest gains. Stakis shares, which have performed strongly over the past year, closed down 2

Mr Robinson and Granada's chief operating officer. Charles Allen, spent much of vesterday at Forte's HQ seeking to reas-

At their first meeting with staff below department head level, they said that salaries would be paid and there would be no fast organisational

changes.
The broking houses BZW and ABN Amro Hoare Govett. both advisers to Granada

ary, the FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee said. It will be replaced by the largest company on the reserve list at that time. The five companies on the replacement list are Anglian

placed 26 million Granada

FT-SE 100 index after the

close of business on 30 Janu-

shares vesterday at 693p. Forte will be replaced in the

Water, Greenalls Group, MEPC, Next and Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager whose decision to sell its 14 per cent stake in Forte is credited with having Gerry Robinson: Expecting swung the takeover battle.



to hear from Stakis soon

Abbot wins battle

# Lights go out on Liffe's late session

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Liffe, London's go-go derivatives exchange, has torn a large leaf out of the Stock Exchange's collective works of cock-ups, admitting the hasty shut-down of its new electronic options trading system just 15

minutes after its launch. There were shades of Taurus minor yesterday, as pained Liffe officials, more used to re- after having grappled confus-

1243

2350

British Biotech

112

butting malicious market rumours of coke in the restrooms, sought to explain why the plug had hastily to be pulled on Thursday on their "very leading edge system".

Traders across the City had been looking forward to the chance to turn a few quid in this first extension into electronic after-hours options trading. Suddenly they found themselves tapping in the dark.

389 21.5

ingly with reference prices that had taken on minds of their own.

"The system was overloaded and not performing acceptably," said a Liffe spokeswoman, who sounded in danger of crashing herself. "We need to do some more development. Options trading can be very complex.

The APT Plus system was developed in-house at a cost of £2m to enable trading in Bund products.

options to carry on electronically after the close at 16.30 of the normal day's trading, which is conducted by open outery on the exchange floor by about 2.500 traders.

Liffe has a daily turnover volume in excess of £125bn, and is the biggest futures and options exchange outside Chicago. It is currently linking up with the big US exchange to extend the distribution of its derivative

150.7+3 2pc 2.9 15 Feb

106.9 1.8pc 4.2 22 Feb

Base Rates - 6.250c 6.75

erdeen, which had won the agreement of the OIS board. Abbot, best known for its KCA drilling subsidiary, originally offered around £8m for OIS just before Christmas after exploratory talks broke down. OIS, whose profits slumped to £144.000 in the year to December 1994 from £2.2m the

MARY FAGAN

Industrial Correspondent

Aberdeen-based Abbot Group

has won the battle for control

of OIS International, the oil ser-

vices company that was floated

at the end of 1992. Abbot saw

off a counter-attack launched on

Thursday morning by OGC in-

ternational, also based in Ab-

offer as opportunistic. The approach of a white knight in the form of OGC was welcomed as an opportunity to increase the range of services of-

previous year, dismissed the

for oil operator OIS fered by by the two companies, which have links dating back to 1977. But the rival 28p-pershare bid from OGC was quickly trumped by a renewed 32p cash offer from Abbot. The renewed bid, which includes an alternative of five Abbot shares for every eight in OIS, values the company at more than £9.9m. Abbot last night owned or had acceptances for more than 52 per cent of its target.

Shares in OIS, which came to the market at 50p, rose by 4.5p to 32p. The company has been struggling to recover from se-vere problems in 1994, when some key contracts were lost or deferred and margins took a battering in the face of fierce competition.

OIS specialises in technical inspection services for the offshore industry and was established in 1972 with bases in Aberdeen and Great Yarmouth.

## 'Independent' Money on Saturday

In the Weekend' section today

 National pensions: Compulsory contributions? · Fear of finance: Savings rates crumble:

 Nursing home insurance: Partnership plan emerges 24. Investment management Europe states its case.

Day's strange Change (50) 1995/96 Kigh 1995/96 Law Yield (50) 2954.20 FTSE 100 3734.70 +0.50+0.0 FTSE 250 -1.10 3300.90 3.59 1482.40 3.78 +0.0 +0.10 1678.61 3.12 2005.58 FT Small Cap +1.87 <u>+0.1</u> 1837.17 5242 84 1469.23 3.73 +0.22 +0.0 3832,08 2.28 +30.35 +0.6 20669.03 14485.41 0.75† 20663 84 +249 15 +12 11111.87 6967.93 3.35† +8.79 +0.1 Hong Kong 2443.72 1910.96 1.82† -10.79 Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

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5.3 / Sainsbury(J)

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Tare Shakes Medeva

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There is a time for making the assets sweat, but also in business, a time when managements

must look to the future and invest in it; that at least is what an increasingly

worried P & O management has

been telling the City'

After Forte, P&O? The parallels are obshares, like those of Forte before the Granada bid, trade at a substantial discount to underlying assets. Nor are profits at P&O anywhere near their potential; making the ets sweat is apparently what the Carol really wants. Galleys of this world expect of company

directors these days.

At P&O it is simply not happening. And although P&O is plainly not quite the business dynasty that Forte was, it comes close. Lord Sterling of Plaistow has been at the helm for donkeys years; some accuse him of

falling asleep at the wheel.

So is P&O heading the same way as Forte, into the arms of an asset-stripping predator? Post Forte, the idea of the breakup bid is suddenly respectable once more, in the City at least. With its dozen or so unrelated divisions, P&O might seem a classic for the treatment; it is easily possible to get to a break-up value of £7 a share so even after the recent ride - up another 13p yesterday to 542p - there is still plenty

However, there are a number of reasons why the present wave of speculation is probably wide of the mark. For a start P&O is an awfully large bite for anyone: the likely takeout would be anything up to £4bn. On top of that, the bidder inherits a mountain of debt. Furthermore, the break-up effort

case, the disposal programme faced by Granada is large but containable, in the sense that it could be achieved in just two or three sales. With P&O, there would be division after division to sell, all for the sake of the one or two businesses that the bidde

This wouldn't rule out a break-up specialist such as KKR, of course, but whether the Americans would have the stomach for an assault of such size on British soil must be open to question. The stock market has always found it hard to value conglomerates, even those like P&O that claim to have some kind of common thread to unite their disparate businesses. P&O is also in some highly unfashionable, downtrodden industries.

Even the most inspired of managements would find it hard to sparkle in cross-Channel ferries, construction and house-building. As it is, P&O is probably as effective as most. Its under-performance is also in part a reflection of the fact that it invests heavily for the future - an old fashioned concept this.

There is a time for making the assets sweat, but also in business, a time when managements must look to the future and invest in it; that at least is what an increasingly wor-ried P&O management has been telling the City. In the past three or four months it has visited more institutional shareholders than in the previous three or four years. The mesrequired would make P&O distinctly unappealing to any industrial hidder. In the Forter business will soon be reaping the rewards of

heavy spending and caring management. If, i in its now reckless love affair with the PFI in the meantime, bid speculation makes i is that it is not the only suitor. Indeed, investors realise quite how undervalued the company is, nobody is going to quarrel too much with that.

#### PFI is just another form of never-never

the cross-party Treasury committee con-I cluded its hearings on the Private Finance Initiative this week. It must now begin the more difficult part - deciding what to make of it all. If MPs have any sense, they will expose the PFI for what it really is - a questionable exercise in off-budget

The scale of PFI expansion the Government is seeking is stuggering. According to the Treasury, departments expect to have agreed £14bn worth of PFI contracts within the next three years. In its absence, total public sector capital spending would fall dras-tically, by almost a tenth in real terms, in the next linancial year.

No one is in any doubt about the political reason for this helter-skelter rush into these uncharted waters. The Government couldn't make its sums add up for the budget, so something had to give. In time-honoured fashion, that something was public investment. Enter the deus ex machina, the

Private Finance Initiative. A useful advantage for the Government

doughty John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party, takes credit for inventing the idea. Industrialists are more guarded in their support, particularly since right now the PFI is not delivering the contracts expected, but if in the end it results in more work than the public sector would have put up for grabs

on its own, then they are happy too.

Sometimes this kind of consensus is a Good Thing: think of the new-found bipartisan accord on keeping inflation under control, together with sustaining the institutional changes, in particular those to the Bank of England, that have added credibility to this objective. As often as not, however, a blanket consensus hides a conspiracy of silence, in which the various parties have very dif-ferent motives in backing a policy. So it is with the PFI. Labour backs the

scheme because it sees it as a way of escaping the tyranny of the public sector borrowing requirement and so boosting public investment. The Conservatives back the initiative because it allows them to cut public investment - while claiming they haven't. Industry sees the PFI as a backdoor entry to nice juicy contracts. Everyone loves the PFI then. But who eventually picks up the bill?

Answer: the taxpayer. Except that under the PFI, the bill is pushed into the future. The public sector no longer contracts to buy assets: instead it enters into agreements to

P&O is undervalued but not a tempting target purchase services. Not a penny is paid until those services start to be provided, so under the cash-based public accounts, not a penny

is shown in the projections of public expenditure until that happens.

The official rationale for the Private Finance Initiative is that this further extenditure in the projection of the Private Finance Initiative is that this further extenditure is the private of the private sion of market disciplines into the public sector stands or falls on value for money. A PFI scheme must satisfy this criterion if it is to go ahead. Top departmental civil servants in their capacity as accounting officers and the National Audit Office can be relied upon to

police the new practice. Despite these protestations, which include claims of substantial savings and better quality services on early deals, serious doubts remain. Whatever the efficiencies the private sector can deliver, it will always face ubstantially higher borrowing costs than the Government.

A further worry is that departments are ocking themselves into long-term, inflexible contracts for services which may become redundant. The public sector may find itself tied into onerous contracts for services that are no longer needed.

But the biggest concern by far is that the PFI is for the Government just another form of the never-never. MPs must insist that the the capital costs of PFI contracts are included in next year's public expenditure figures. Otherwise, claims of spending control compared with previous years will increasingly lose credibility.

# Contractors warn 15,000 jobs face axe

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

Civil engineers predicted vesterday that 10,000 to 15,000 jubs would be lost this year because orders is causing a deepening

slump in the industry.

John Hackett, the directorgeneral of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, blamed the government for the downturn because of a slowing in the award of roadbuilding

and maintenance contracts. Mr Hackett said that the Highways Agency business plan had been revised downward for the 1995-96 year, and now included only one start on a major road scheme compared with eight announced at the start of the financial year Maintenance had also been trimmed back and some smaller contracts already

out to tender had been shelved. Mr Hackett said: "In the present state of the market it is a severe blow to these companies to have incurred thousands of pounds in tendering costs, then be told that contracts will not be awarded.

He added: "The transport minister's announcement, and these actions by the Highways Agency, are accelerating the decline in road construction and maintenance that is draga slowdown in roadbuilding ging down the whole of civil engineering."
The contractors also blamed

slippages in awarding design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) contracts - part of the government's private finance initiative - as a contributory factor.But a spokesman said the slippage was only three months and was not as important to the industry's problems as the straightforward cut in the number of government contracts awarded.

The spokesman blamed these cuts on a hiatus resulting from the national transport debate inaugurated by Dr Brian Mawhinney when he was transport secretary. "The road versus rail debate should have happened years ago. Our members were left waiting." The debate played into the hands of the Treasury. opening the way for a fall in spending on roads, he said. The contractors, who em-

ploy 130,000 people, are to meet Dr Mawhinney's successor, Sir George Young, on Monday to discuss ways of speeding up the award of contracts, including the preparation of a standard set of contracts for DBFO projects.

The prediction of a deepening slump came from the latest quarterly survey of federation members. Only one in five firms was resisting the downward trend. Mr Hackett said the most

striking feature of the results was the continuing low level of invitations to tender for future work, which pointed to a greater fall in workload later in 1996. The percentage of firms reporting a fall in invitations is the highest for 15 years, while the percentage reporting more invitations is the lowest for the same period.

Mr Hackett added "This, and a succession of recent government announcements and actions by public sector clients, have created a situation of considerable uncertainty and concern over the outlook for civil engineering later this year."



Heading for a slump: Civil engineers say that invitations to tender are at their lowest for 15 years. Only one big road scheme will start this year

There is, however, a slight pick-up in the number of firms reporting better current order books, because of higher orders from the water industry. But for every firm doing better there are two doing worse. Mr Hackett said more orders for water and

sewerage works did not make that would not make up for the up for the decline in orders for transport infrastructure that provided the greatest part of the civil engineering workload. The industry knew there would be more work later in the year on

cuts in public spending.

Photograph: Brian Harris

The survey showed improvements in the circumstances of smaller contractors - with fewer than 100 workers on sites but no change or a worsening the first DBFO contracts, but for all the larger firms.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Bass family lifts Sotheby's stake

Sotheby's Holdings, the parent company of the auction house group, has confirmed that a group including members of the Bass family in America, now owns 7.7 per cent of the shares.

#### Electronic nose sniffs out smaller loss

AromaScan, maker of the "electronic nose", is in detailed talks with prospective partners to exploit the company's core technology. No further details were disclosed, but the company said it was confident about full-year progress after announcing losses cut from £819,000 to £683,000 in the six months to October.

#### Rebel bales out of Locker

John Carr, rebel shareholder in Thomas Locker (Holdings), baled out yesterday, selling his remaining 11.6 per cent holding. Mr Carr has been a thorn in the side of the family-dominated engineering company since he acquired a 22.6 per cent stake last May and attempted to prevent the reverse takeover of Pentre, an industrial drums maker. But his objections were rejected by other shareholders when they approved the Pentre deal earlier this month.

#### **Greig Middleton offshore business sold**

King & Shaxson, is selling the Channel Islands business of its Greig Middleton stockbrokers to Collins Stewart for an initial £1.8m. At the end of April, the net assets were valued at £1.7m. Pre-tax profits for the 12 months to April were £416,000.

#### Standard Chartered plans sale of HK unit

Standard Chartered, the UK-based bank with extensive Asia operations, is in discussion with Nava, the finance arm of the Thai Military Bank, over the sale of its Hong Kong-based unit Standard Chartered Securities.

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

## Cancer scare shakes Medeva

Our suggestion earlier this month that an ket value. Continued growth of Methyl-finance director. The shares could drift for investment in Medeva, the drugs group, could prove exciting has already been borne out by events. Unfortunately the subsequent one-fifth fall in the share price, even after yesterday's 5.5p uplick to 223p, is not what we had in mind.

The sudden change in sentiment was prompted by last week's warning from the US Food and Drug Administration that ing drug, Methylphenidate, could potentially cause cancer. This bolt from the blue came after tests on the 40-year-old drug, which treats so-called attention deficit disorder. The tests showed a higher than expected incidence of a rare liver cancer after 16 per cent to 6 per cent this year. laboratory rats and mice were treated at 30 times the normal dose over two years. Five male mice out of a sample of 70 developed tumours. The FDA described these findings as only a "weak signal" of the drug's potential for cancer, but has called for doctors to be notified and warnings to be printed on the packaging.

Bill Bogie, Medeva's chief executive,

points out that research has shown that the albuterol-generic Ventolin-after Ivax won earnings have easily funded a good divisort of liver disease in question is normally apparent by the age of four in humans, while Methylphenidate is only prescribed from six and above. He also stresses the FDA's continued belief that Methylphenidate is a safe and effective drug.

But the share price reaction shows just how vulnerable Medeva remains to bad news. The latest tidings come just as Medeva was rehabilitating itself in the City after a 1993 profits warning halved its marphenidate and the prospects for a range several months while the effect of the lat-

Medeva's best-selling behaviour-modify- short term, representing as it does all the

from an estimated £79m last year to just £86m in 1996, compared with consensus estimates of around £95m, raising the prospective multiple from 11 to 13. That is still not high for a fast-expanding drugs company, but there are plenty of other problems. Medeva's new inhaler has now lost the

race to be the first on the US market to use approval from the authorities last month. Competition is set to intensify, with the imminent introduction by Glazo Wellcome and Schering-Plough of generic versions of their own patented products. Elsewhere, several other new Medeva products are caught

up in patent litigation. pharmaceuticals world, but provide a degree of uncertainty at a time when Mede-va is also about to change its chairman and

#### British Borneo rights on track

When a company, with shares trading at 378p, stages a two-for-five rights issue at 310p, the arithmetic points to a notional ex-rights price of 359p. It is quite some indication of the enthusiasm in the City for the oil explorer British Borneo that in just those circumstances yesterday, its

shares actually jumped to 410p. Since 1989 British Borneo has transformed itself from what was essentially an investment trust, a portfolio of oil company shares, into a well-regarded and focused oil exploration and production company. The building of that business. however, has not been at the expense of shareholder value - growing cash flow and dend and the share price has quadrupled since the beginning of 1992.

Analysts left yesterday's meeting with the company impressed by its strategy of diversifying out of existing strongholds in the North Sea and shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and into the Gulf's deeper waters. It is an oil region of immense promise that has attracted a lot of interest.

The big players, however, are really only interested in developing fields where they can retrieve more than about 75 million barrels of oil. That leaves plenty of work for smaller companies, especially if

they can create cost advantages.

British Borneo believes it has a significant competitive advantage in the area. partly thanks to a recently announced alliance with an American company that has developed a low cost production platform called SeaStar. Thanks to an agreement with Shell to appraise and develop a field called Morpeth, Borneo has become one of the first independent exploration com-panies to establish a significant presence.

The rights issue, to raise £54m, was accompanied by full-year results for the 12 months to December, showing a useful rise in pre-tax profits from £11.4m to £13.6m. Despite higher petroleum revenue tax last year, post-tax earnings increased to 23.1p (21.1p), allowing an unchanged dividend

Financially strong and with good asset backing the shares look nicely under-pinned but it would be surprising if, following their recent run, they didn't pause

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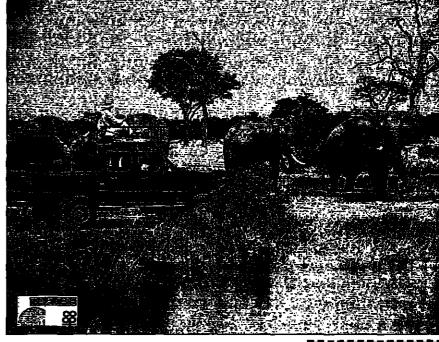
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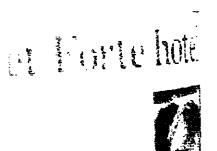
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of new products ranging from a generic metered-dose inhaler for asthma to Hepagene, a vaccine for hepatitis B, spurred the shares' 39 per cent outperformance against the rest of the stock market last year.

The problem is that the balance between risk and reward is very finely poised at Medeva. Methylphenidate is crucial in the group's sales growth and a substantial proportion of profits. NatWest Markets calculates that a halving of the drug's expected rate of expansion to 13 per cent in 1996 would cut Medeva's earnings growth from

The deceleration means profits would rise

Law suits are not uncommon in the

Medeva : at a glance Share price (pence) Sales by major product area (£m) Other products ' Vaccines /argesthesia

# More names on the list as dealers wait for next big bid TAKING STOCK market report/shares

#### DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3734.7 +0.5 FT-SE 250 4085.6 -1.1 FT-SE 350 1854.6 +0.1 across the City. SEAQ VOLUME 730m shares,

takeover bids that are rumoured to being put together behind closed doors in corporate finance departments right

32,329 bargains

share price, perice

-0.37

Gitts Index

95.62

1150

1100

Dealers anticipate that takeover action this year will be propping the market up at its current high level and share trading in the FT-SE 100 member was busy with the volume prices may be undermined if exceeding 6.5 million. some big bid guns do not swing SHARE SPOTLIGHT

into action soon. Only a sure-footed opening on Wall Street stopped the London market from finishing on a sour note in a week that saw records smashed. The FT-SE 100 share index showed a 20 point fall just 30 minutes before Wall Street's opening bell but by the close it showed a tiny gain of half a point to 3,734.7. Trading volume in equities was good for a Friday, but

The market is starting to grow made in recent weeks. More tired of waiting for all the than 730 million shares changed hands, and 33,000 deals were struck.

Several more names were added to the ever lengthening speculative list of takeover targets. The biggest name of the day to attract a bid rumour was frenetic, but there is little else propping the market up at its propping the market up at its trading in the FT-SE 100 mem-

Where a bid would come from, is anyone's guess. It just has all the classic break-up characteristics, and that, it appears, is a good enough reason as any for speculators to move in. P&O has an odd mix of businesses, from the ferry operations to Bovis, the construction company. Analysts at UBS reckon the sum of the parts, which also include road transport and exhibition halls, equat-



MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

Indosuez several months ago.

over. Gartmore rose 4.5p to

246p yesterday, amid talk that Berliner Bank was close to

finalising a £600m takeover.

Elsewhere in financials.

Standard Chartered, which

has also been talked of as a tar-

get for NatWest, gained 2p to 638p. The advance, though, was

in reaction to Standard at last confirming it was in talks to sell

its Asian securities business to

Nava Finance.

Asset Management. Shares fin-shares fin-shares fin-majority shareholder Banque 899.5p, valuing the fund man-The long wait, may soon be agement group at almost £1.65bn. Royal Bank of Scotland, up 2p to 591p, and National Westminster, off 3p to 664p, are the firm favourites to mount an acquisitive strike against MAM, the second

biggest operator in its field. There is even some talk of a bid of £10.50 a share being launched next week, which would provide the catalyst this market needs to keep moving forward. MAM, however, has been immersed in takeover speculation before, and there is still the issue of who is going da a willing seller of the 68 per cent stake inherited from its £3.9bn takeover of Forte. ITT Sheraton and Marriott, two of the world's biggest hotel groups, are understood to have approached Granada about

buying the stake. Granada climbed 10p as institutions clambered for a slice of a placing of 25 million shares at 693p. Total tracking in Granada amounted to 52 million. Forte will be replaced in

the FT-SE 100 index on Tuesday by either Anglian Water. down 2p to 565p, Greenalls, also off 2p to 603p, MEPC, 4p lower at 404p, Next, up 2p to 456p, or MAM.

Interested buyers of the Forte hotels that Granada does not want are pouring out of the woodwork. Stakis yesterday said it was interested in some of the mid-market hotels. Profit takers moved into Stakis. down 2p to 87p, after an upbeat

most. Spend per head at the tables has risen from £129 to £134, and attendances improved 16,000 to 525,000 in the three months to December. Trading news from J Sainsbury, however, was not so

good. The company's first ever profits warning sent the shares scuttling back by 21.5p to 389p, wiping almost £400m off the company's market value. Renewed rumours about a counter bid from Gehe of Germany pushed Lloyds Chemists 6p higher to 426p, MAM continued to increase its stake, buy-

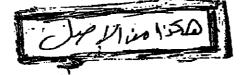
ing another 250,000 at 418p. Unichem, which has agreed takeover terms for Lloyds, firmed 2p to 255p.
Tottenham Hotspur celebrated its successful appeal against the one-year ban from

European competitions imposed by UEFA with a 4p ad-

firmer at 26p, amid talk that a bidder may be looking to buy the company cheaply ahead of the development of its Bolivian oil prospect. Pan Andean has a 20 per cent stake in the site, which has estimated reserves of 800m barrels. Broken Hill owns the remaining 80 per cent. Drilling starts later this year.

Stanford Rook continues to go from strength to strength. The price of the AEM stock and biotech tiddler climbed 32p to 525p, almost triple the price they traded at only three months ago. Talk of an imminent joint venture deal with Merck, the giant US pharmaceuticals company, to develop its SRL172 drug for tuberculosis sparked yesterday's surge.

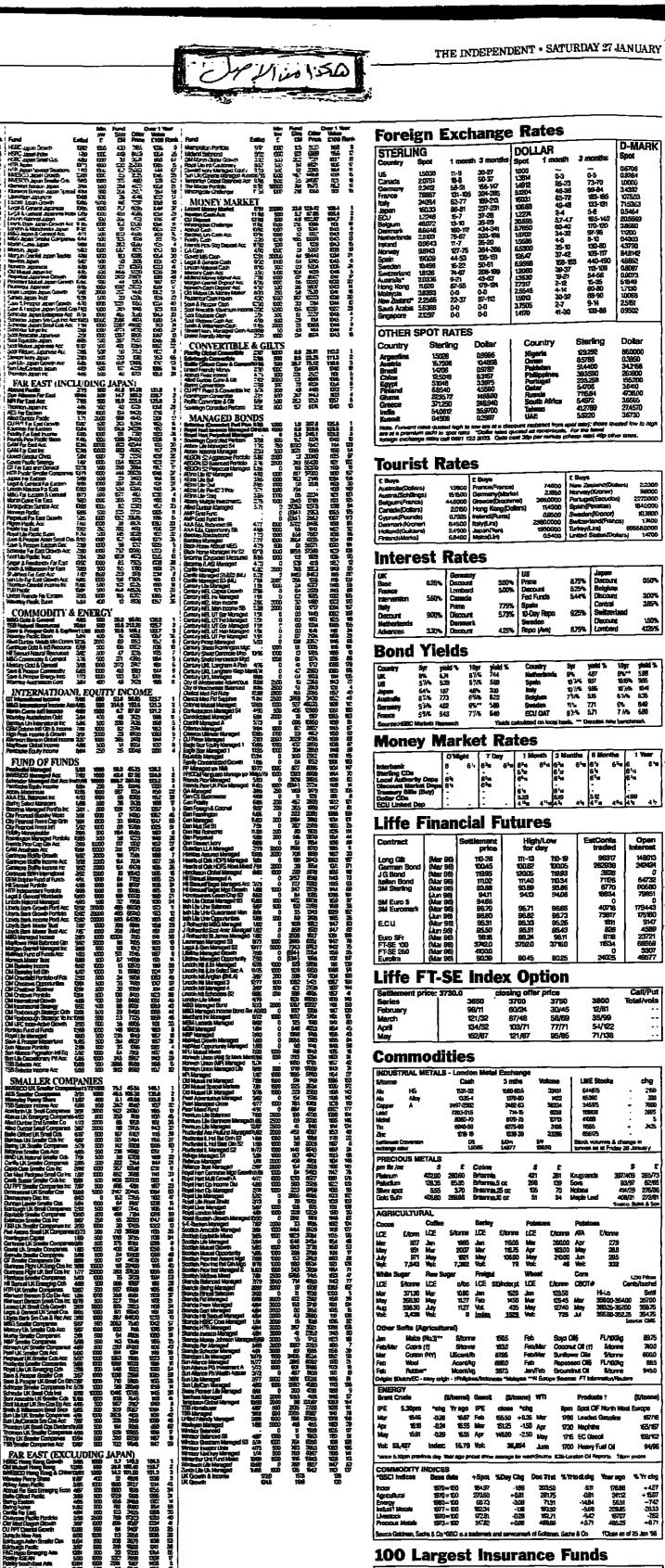
| but by the close it showed a tingain of half a point to 3,734.7  Trading volume in equitie was good for a Friday, but there were plenty of signs of in                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | which also include road trans-<br>sport and exhibition halls, equat-<br>ed to 700p per share.  The takeover spotlight re-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | forward. MAM, however, has been immersed in takeover speculation before, and there is still the issue of who is going to buy the rival Gartmore,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | savoy Hotel group to an all-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | said it was interested in some<br>of the mid-market hotels. 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Ex all u Urasted Securities Market's Suspendance.  Source: Firstat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         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# sport



Bullock and Hylton add to 400 metres equation

**Athletics** 

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Such is the wealth of 400 metres runners in Britain at the moment that it is likely to be one of the most consistently intriguing events of the season.

As the likes of Roger Black, Mark Richardson, Du'Aine Ladejo and David Grindley train on in earnest for their Olympic year, two of the country's most promising one-lap runners will provide a glimpse of the future today as they face each other in the season's opening indoor international in Birmingham.

Guy Bullock, the 1993 European junior 400m champion, and Mark Hylton, the current tional against Russia with everything to run for.

Both have the potential to earn an Olympic place this summer, although Bullock, a 20year-old Liverpudlian, is realistic in his assessment of how things stand. "I would like to think I would be going to the Olympics, but both Mark and I have got to knock a few people off their perches first," he said.

But, as Hylton points out, the

400m is notorious for inducing illness and injury, and the odds against all four main contenders making it to the Olympic trials in July in top shape must be long. If there are any openings, these two runners, and the likes

training with Colin Jackson in Australia, stand ready to exploit

Not that either is immune to the 400m runner's trials. Bullock, a powerful all-round sportsman who excelled at football and rugby as a schoolboy, had most of last season ruined by a hamstring injury and a chest infection. Hylton achieved both his ambitions for last year in winning his junior title and making the British team at the Gothenburg World Championships, but last November he contracted glandular fever and

missed a month's training. Bullock, who has lost a stone what he describes as a more

holder of that title, take to the of Jamie Baulch, currently "event specific" approach to his boards in the Bupa Internatraining with Colin Jackson in training, indicated his return to form at the Birmingham New Year Games as he broke 47 seconds in a runaway victory.

Although Bullock no longer shares a coach with Grindley - he switched back to Alan Prestcott from Chris Butler recently - he still trains regularly with the British record holder. Hylton gave notice of his own

return to fitness last week in taking the Scottish indoor title in 47,35sec, one hundredth of a second outside the championship hest. The 19-year-old from Windsor has a similar training set-up to Bullock, working with a more established one-lap runner in Richardson, last year's Euro-

pean Cup champion.

established athletes still training abroad, this team includes seven new internationals, including Hylton's 17-year-old Windsor club-mate, Lesley Owusu, who also competes at 400m.

Neil Caddy, whose victory over a strong 2,000m field at the Durham cross-country event on 31 December was full of promise, also has his first international run-out.

Meanwhile Judy Oakes, who first competed for Britain before Hylton was born, will make her 73rd appearance for Great Britain - an all-time record.

The 37-year-old shot putter. whose first international appearance was on 31 January 1976, will surpass the mark crazy enough to want to do that.

With many of Britain's more held by the current British team manager. Verona Elder.

Oakes, who came out of her second retirement to win a second Commonwealth title in 1994, became the first person to exceed an Olympic standard in 1996 when she recorded 18.11 metres on 6 January.

"It's a special milestone in my life because it shows I've supported my sport for a very long time, said Oakes, who is hoping to reach the final at what will be her third Olympics.

"I think it is going to be hard for anyone to beat the record because there are fewer international matches nowadays. Besides, it's taken me 20 years. I don't think anyone else would be



# Chang and Becker in final battle

Tennis

Michael Chang has only Boris Becker to beat to end his sevenyear wait for a second grand slam title after trouncing the defending champion. Andre Agassi, in straight sets in the Australian Open semi-finals in Melbourne yesterday.

However, Becker, who won the title in 1991, will be no pushover after beating the unseeded Australian veteran Mark Woodforde 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 in only Thr 38min to set up a final against the 23-year-old world No 5. Chang, who won 6-1. 6-4, 7-6, mastered the almost gale-force conditions better than his compatriot and was happy to play a waiting game as Agassi unleashed a string of uncharacteristic errors.

Chang not only used his new. longer racket to devastating effect with 13 aces but was all over the court, running down potential winners, varying the pace of the game with clever top-spin and waiting for the

Agassi mistakes. Agassi obliged and conceded that the wind was a nightmare. "It was one of the windiest days tournament," he said. "The wind was kind of playing havoc out there. In a windy situation. a player with a lot of footwork

like Chang has the advantage." Agassi, who had stumbled down a spiral staircase before his first-round match and injured his knee, said he felt flat. a feeling reflected in an astonishing 60 unforced errors. "I don't think anything has been 100 per cent the whole tournament." said Agassi, who played three gruelling five-setters on his

way to the semi-final. "Sometimes your eyes are

higger than your stomach," Brad Gilbert, Agassi's coach, said of his belief that his charge could win this tournament again. "His body just didn't have it for him today. I think he was tired after playing 22 sets in this tournament. The adrenalin pulled him through a few matches but

today he hit the wall." Down two sets. Agassi showed only glimpses of the form that saved him from defeat in the quarter-final against Jim Courier, a win that gave him the points to wrest back the

No 1 spot from Pete Sampras. The Las Vegan battled back from an eight-game losing streak in the second set to salvage some pride, and then broke Chang's booming serve in the third to set up a 4-1 lead.

But Agassi's errors kept mounting and his game cracked beneath the weight of them mid-way through the third set when he hit a forehand long to give Chang the break back and send the match into a tie-break. which Chang took 7-1.

Chang, who is striving for a second grand slam title after winning the French Open as a 17-year-old, said no one could rest on their ranking. "I think nis now. If you are No 1 in the world it does not mean you are safe any more."

Despite the crushing nature of his defeat, Agassi still backed Becker for his second title here. "I think Boris has a game that can take Chang's speed out out of the equation to a certain degree and a guy like Boris serves well. When he's holding. he's good enough to beat any-

Becker, the fourth seed, was brutal in his defeat of Woodforde, the last couple of years, I'm quite who had surprised everyone. including himself, in winning his



Sonic boomer: Boris Becker drives past Mark Woodforde yesterday to reach tomorrow's final against Michael Chang

final at the 38th attempt. Becker ignored sentiment and a partisan crowd to blast

Woodforde off the court, appropriately wrapping up the aces in a third-set whitewash. Boris had one of those

probably God could have been out there on the other end and he would have beaten Him England's Martin Lee and The 28-year-old German,

who has not won a grand slam tournament since his 1991 victory at Flinders Park, was asked afterwards how hungry he was for a sixth grand slam title. "Since I haven't been eating for hungry. I was quite close last year at Wimbledon and I

ay to a first grand slam semi- couldn't manage it, but I'm in the final again and I'm going to take another shot at it," he

But the world No 4, who has JOHN ROBERTS put behind him a run of poor since winning the title, now comes up against an in-form player who has not dropped a set days," Woodforde said, "when in six matches on the way to a

> James Trotman are through to the boys' doubles final at the Australian Open. They defeated the Swedish pair Matthias Hellstrom and Bjorn Rehnqvist 7-5 6-2 in the semi-finals yesterday. Lee, 18, and his 16-yearold partner. Trotman, won the boys doubles at Wimbledon

iast year. Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

## Size does make a difference

As a 5ft 9in Christian, Michael Chang takes inspiration from the story of David and Goliath. Competing against big-serving opponents of 6h 4in and above. however, prompted him to try to even things up a little. So he added an inch to the length of

hís racket. This was quite in order. The rules allow for a racket to be up to 32in, and Chang's is 29in, But the American's success provoked the authorities to think again, fearing that the goliaths of the game might retaliate by reaching for the biggest club.

mitted to the International Tennis Federation's annual meeting

in June. Most rackets are 27in or 28in long but, as the current issue of ITF News points out: "A rival some 10 inches taller - like Todd Martin - using a 32in racket, would serve the ball from more than a foot higher than

Chang using his current racket. Chang acquired the weapon early in 1994. He took time to adjust to the difference, but persisted with characteristic determination. Maintaining his final. Tomorrow's opponent place in the world's top 10, the Boris Becker, a mere 6ft 3in.

As a consequence, a motion 23-year-old gradually increased seeking to limit the length of the potency of his serve and 9in is due to be sub-started hitting a surprising num-

Technology has helped, but so has Chang's revised approach to the game. 'I spend a heck of a lot more time practising my serve. he says. When I was younger I used to concentrate on hitting groundstrokes, but when you can win a few free points you don't have to work

so hard in every game."

Chang, denied a triumph by Thomas Muster at the French Open last June, has advanced impressively to the Australian Open final. Tomorrow's opponent is

## Christie cruises to victory

CEMP (A)

Linford Christie won his first 100 metres race of the year with impressive case at the Adelaide Grand Prix vesterday.

Running into a strong head-wind, the Olympic champion dominated the race from the 40metre mark and crossed the line in a hand-timed 10 seconds dead. The time is worth the equivalent of around 10.25sec timed electronically. Australia's Tim Jackson was second in 10.3.

Christie has yet to reveal if he will run in the Atlanta Olympics. He has spent the past month in Australia training, increasing speculation that the Olympics will be his swansong. "I just want to go out with a bang this year, Christie said. "I'm in better shape than last year and I'm very. very strong at the moment.

Colin Jackson won the 110m hurdles in 13.39 despite running into a headwind of 2.7mps. "I'm really happy to turn in a performance like that so early

in the year," Jackson said. Going into that headwind l thought 13.6 would have been a good performance." Jackson's fellow Welshman, Paul Gray, the Commonwealth bronze medal-

list, was second in 14.04. Melinda Gainsford, of Australia, won the women's 100m in 11.56 and the 200m in 23.33. while her compatriot. Cathy Freeman, took the 400m in 50.96. Paul Bitok, of Kenya, won the men's 3,000m in 7min

## TODAY'S NUMBER

450,000

The number of tickets that have been sold on the domestic market for football's European Championship finals in England in June. Only 90,000 remain for the entire 31-match programme in-volving 16 countries.

# **Questions of Sport**

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NDEPENDENT

B: Terry Holmes

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Saturday 27 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question One, either A,B or C in the Q1 column then repeat for Q2 and Q3.

THE QUESTIONS Q1 Who is the coach of the Welsh natio rugby union team? Kevin Bowning

Q2 Which former champion Flat-race jockey retired in 1995? A: Joe Mercer

Q3 Which 1984 Olympic gold medallist has been on the books of Mansfield Your FC this season? A: Steve Redgrave

B: Sebastian Coe C: Daley Thompson

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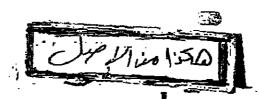
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# The words free and kick performed a little two-step before the K of kick stepped forward and bent the ball round his colleagues

There was a lot to catch the eye at Upton Park on Monday night as West Ham took on Manchester United: the moment Iain Dowie lost a contact lens so far up his eye it was practically in his scalp; the incident when Ryan Giggs ran into Julian Dicks and bounced off him as if from a trampoline; or, a year after Selhurst, the unexpected sight of Eric Cantona acting as peace maker, suggesting to an over-heated Andy Cole that football really isn't worth getting all steamed up about and that, like one of Harry Enfield's scouse brothers, he should really calm down, calm down. Despite all that, what nobody could avoid staring at in open-mouthed astonishment were the pair of giant video-screen scoreboards squeezed into two corners of the ground.

In the old days, you may re-member, information was conducted to the crowd at football matches via the number board. An archaic wooden structure, this item was supposed to give the half-time scores in other matches via a series of letters and numbers. Invariably sited well out of eye-shot (at St James' Park it was placed atop an unsteady scaf-folding structure up which an old boy used to have to climb at half-time with a box of numbers, provoking much impromptu book-making in the stands about whether he was going to make it), as a source of information it was virtually useless. You spent much of the time, eyes narrowed in concentration, squinting to work out if the score at match A was 1-1, 0-0 or 10-10. And that was

know which game match A was in the first place. You'd need to be an expert in the *Times* crossword to decipher what was going on in the rest

of the football world. Electronics did away with all that and, as the new stadiums have bloomed post-Taylor, the screens have started to appear, Highbury has one. White Hart Lane has one, Old Trafford hasn't yet, but when one is installed you imagine miniature take-home versions will be available for £19.99 at the United Megastore. None, though, is operated with quite the élan of the Upton Park screen. Not for it the simple expedient of listing the teams, or perhaps showing action replays of near misses and moments of controversy. Taking its lead from the computerised before you realised that you didn't scoreboards in Australian and South Jim White



African cricket grounds, on which cartoon stumps fly every time a wicket is taken, or sad looking ducks waddle pavilion-wards when a player is out for nought, the Upton screen feels the need, like an Internet Alan Green, to pass judgment on everything that happens on the pitch. And a lot more besides.

When a player was booked, for instance, a giant animated ref ap-peared on the screen and flourished his huge yellow card; when there was a free-kick, the words free and kick performed a little two-step and formed a wall, before the K of kick stepped forward and bent the ball round his colleagues; after a West Ham near miss, up on screen came the word "ooooh" as if the entire East End crowd were made up of Ju-lian Clary soundalikes. And when a player went down injured a cartoon sequence ensued, worthy of a contract with Warner Brothers as the latest Loony Tune. Up on the screen came the words "Player injured. Oh no, this looks like a job for...der der

restorative properties, bounced on to the screen to administer a sooth-ing balm. This happened every time except when Cantona was down, when, with a chirpy cockney spar-rer's sense of mischief, the screen mixed two programs: "Player in-jured. Oh no, this looks like a job for...der der der..." appeared as usual but, before Super Sponge could arrive on the scene, up came

al times of a giant hammer smash-ing on to a tiny green pitch to leave an indentation of the West Ham club crest on the turf. Such cunning subversion made you think what an intriguing idea it would be if a scoreboard was

the sequence which had run sever-

der...Super Sponge." At which an allowed to reflect the genuine feelings of the crowd. When a full-back apparently super-hero levels of sliced a clearance the words "My granny could kick it further than you might come up on the screen.
Or when the opposing striker
missed a sitter, it could inform us he was, after all, an Arsenal reject.

Never mind Super Sponge, if a member of the opposition went down injured the scoreboard could, in a revivalist nod to the old 1970s chant, be filled with a little cartoon dustbin chugging on to remove the felled player. And if one defeat sig-nalled the start of a bad run, the screen could lead the chants of "sack the manager" or organise a petition to demand the resignation of the board. Ideal for the computer generation - not so much terrace hooligans as video nasties.

SUPER BOWL XXX: Dallas are near-certainties for tomorrow's big game, but their coach is labelled a bonehead. Matt Tench reports

# Switzer enters the last chance saloon

n a freezing December afternoon in Philadelphia, the Dallas Cowboys were ittempting to make progress rom deep within their own teritory. The game was in its closng stages and, having dominated he first half, the Cowboys had een thwarted for much of the econd by an Eagles side giving is best show of the season.

The scores were now level and s the Veteran's Stadium faithul bayed for Cowboy blood, nother Dallas possession apeared to be coming to a prenature conclusion. After three owns the visitors were at their wn 29-yard line and needed anther foot to keep the drive alive. At which point Barry Switzer ade the most famous call of ie 1995 season.

With possession swapping afr four downs if 10 yards are not ade, a kick seemed inevitable. vitzer, however, chose to punt a different sense. The son of Mississippi riverboat gambler, staked everything on his ofnse making the extra inches. noring the dangers of ceding e ball within field goal range. Emmitt Smith rushed but is baulked. But just as the ully faithful began a frenzied lebration, the play was called ck. An official had blown the is before it started to sigthe two-minute warning. Switzer had been saved from

recklessness but then, to

uss incredulity, he once again ose to gamble. John Madden, e doven of television comck is going on?" he blurted t. The Cowboys ran the same of their coach. ty, were again stopped, and downs later the Eagles ked the winning field goal. In the television studio, itzer's predecessor, Jimmy inson, could hardly contain his e. Johnson, whose attitude to successor makes Mrs Thatch-; view of John Major appear sitively benign, insisted that a nt was the only option. "You that in high school, college i the pros," he said, a pointed erence to Switzer's lack of L experience before taking r the Super Bowl champions. witzer's Decision (it took less

the league. Afterwards, he justified it on the grounds that a punt would have been into the wind, and the Eagles would have had a reasonable chance of driving for the winning field goal. The Cowboys players and owner, Jerry Jones, rallied round the head coach, but few were convinced. On Dallas radio talkshows, it was acclaimed as the worst coaching decision in franchise history, and one columnist

It was acclaimed as the worst coaching decision in franchise history

even called for Switzer's head. Just about the only support came from Brent Kreider, an assistant professor of economics at Virginia University, who produced an equation which suggested the coach was correct, a contribution that can have done nothing to advance public confidence in the reliability of mathematical proofs.

For Switzer, the Decision symbolised a turbulent season. His Cowboys rebounded from the Philadelphia defeat and go into Sunday's Super Bowl in Phoenix against the Pittsburgh Steelers as unbackable favourites. But as the teams gathered in Phoenix this week. :ntators, made no attempt to te his disbelief. "What in the brilliance of the Cowboy playthe talk has tended to be of the ers - and the boneheadedness

The reasons for this stretch way beyond the Decision, and back to Jones's decision to hire Switzer. In five years, Jones and Johnson had built the Cowboys into the sport's most talented team. When their relationship ended in a messy divorce, Jones is said to have remarked that anybody could guide the two-time Super Bowl champions back to the big game. An unkind view is that Jones then sought to prove the point by appointing a nobody.

Although highly successful in college, Switzer had left Oklahoma five years earlier amid allegations of rules violations.

name status) became the talk of Charismatic but hardly revered, he was in the highly unusual position of inheriting a team that needed no adjustments to continue its success "Leave well alone," was Johnson's acerbic ad-

vice before Switzer's first game. Switzer, whose style was anyway more relaxed than the driven Johnson's, adopted a low profile in his first year and navigated the Cowboys to the NFC Championship game where they lost to the Super Bowl-winning San Francisco 49ers.

As the Cowboys prepared for this season. Switzer made a conscious decision to take firmer control. "I told you a year ago that it was your team," he said to his players. "What I'm telling you today is now it's my team." Which was a bit rich because

everybody knows that the Cowboys are really Jerry Jones's team, and therein lies Switzer's biggest problem.

Any successor was going to have to put up with Jones's allpervading presence, but the complexities of the relationship between owner and head coach, allied to the continual questioning of Switzer's abilities, have made this a difficult season for the Cowboys. "When we win a game, we are supposed to win it. When we lose, it's always a game we were supposed to win," Troy Aikman, their quarterback, said.

One of Switzer's lighter moments came after defeating Green Bay in the NFC Championship game a fortnight ago. After the victory Aikman, who is widely reported to have his own misgivings about Switzer's style, gave his head coach a game ball, and the players made a point of supporting their coach.

All the same, reports that the Cowboys must prevail tomorrow for Switzer to keep his job persist. Jones insists this is not so, but given the premium he has put on another Super Bowl, and the perceived gulf between the sides, defeat in Phoenix would be regarded as a catastrophe in Cowboy country, and maybe one that required a lynching.
The Cowboys should win,

and win handsomely, but of one thing we can be sure. If they get a fourth and short inside their own 30-yard line, Barry Switzer will punt the ball away.



## Stars to expand the Dallas dynasty

Just about the only way in which the Dallas Cowboys are not the perfect ambassadors for their part of the world is that they represent the Lone Star State. This is plainly ridiculous. The Cowboys have enough brilliance in their midst to constitute a minor constellation.

That apart, the team from Texas are the sporting embodiment of an area where youngsters learn to strut before they can walk and modesty is regarded as a character fault. From the way Jerry Jones swaggers along the sideline as though

he owns the place (he does) to a much a clash of cultures as a end-zone celebrations, this is a group that has enjoyed its marked dominance in the 1990s, and in many ways the only surprise about Deion Sanders is that it took the NFL's flashiest individual so long to find his nat-

ural home. The Pittsburgh Steelers, by contrast, come from the game's blue-collar heartland and in their head coach, Bill Cowher, have one of the few of his calling who would not look out of place working in the industry which gives his team its name. When the two teams meet in Phoenix tomorrow, it will be as

Michael Irvin's exaggerated battle for Super Bowl XXX. Unfortunately for those seeking working-class heroes, it is not just symbolically that it will be a contest between haves

and haves not For all their posturing, the Cowboys are by some distance the more talented of the two sides, and in particular possess an offense to compare with any ever assembled. The trio of the quarterback Troy Aikman, the running back Émmitt Smith and the wide receiver Irvin tend to dominate the headlines, but the supporting cast is hardly less impressive, with arguably the League's best full back and

best offensive line.

their menacing defence and for them to have any chance, their outside linebackers Greg Lloyd and Kevin Greene will have to make Aikman's ac- two months with back trouble. quaintance on a regular basis. Lloyd, Lawrence Taylor's natural successor, was frank about his goals this week. "Not that you go out there with the intention to hurt, but to get him out of the game," he said. The Steelers' cornerback Rod time since suffering a serious knee injury in the opening game

tight end working behind what of the season, but the Cowboys, is indisputably the League's too, are buoyed by the return of an outstanding defensive player, Pittsburgh's strength lies in Charles Haley. "How many neir menacing defence and snaps he will play I don't know. But he will play," Barry Switzer, the Dallas head coach, said of the defensive end missing for

Just about the only thing the underdogs do have going for them is history. In the 1970s, the sides met twice at the Super Bowl, with the Steelers prevailing on each occasion. But that was in the era of the Steel Curtain. Tomorrow belongs to Woodson will play for the first the Golden Cowboys, who will win by at least a couple of touchdowns.

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Premier Divisions Boston Town v Raundis; Boume v Cogenhoe; Desborough v
Merripston; Eynesbury v Hotheach; Newport Pagnel v St. Neots; Northampton
Spencer v Storfold; Poton v Long Buckby, Stamford v Spalding Utd; Wellingtonough Town v Stewerts and Lloyds Corby;
Wooton Blue Cross v Mirriese Blackstone.
GREET Blue v S 15 825 to Bounding Philadens WOODD BIJLES LEASUE Premies backener.

CREAT MILLS LEASUE Premier Divisions:
Bideford v Bristof Manor Parm; Chippenham v Barnstaple Town; Frome Town v Brisington; Mangorsfeeld United v Credition United; Paulton Rovers v Eritore; Taumton Town v Twenton Town; Tomngton v Calne; Westbury United v Briston;

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Boardtern Synthonia v Dunston Federation Brewery, Chester-le-Street v Gusborough Town: Eppleton CW v Consett; Fertyfuli Attlebo v Bettington Temest, Vanton v Whitby Town; thonia v Dunston Federation Brev Chester-le-Street v Gusborough R

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE 14 Cartisle v Robertiam

- Hull City v Bristol City

- Suansea v Stockport

15 Wiemers v Bounterior

oricige Old .....Off 20 Esses V Course

- Futhern V Defington

21 Georgian V Bernet

- Herefold V Phynolish

- Herefold V Phynolish

VALIXITALL CONFERENCE 27 Sein City v Kiddemenster 28 Brohnstrue v Morecanoe 29 Degenham v Runcom 30 Dover v Afrinchem 31 Geteshead v Wolting..... 32 Hedricologi v Stevenese

Peterlee v Stockton; RTM New Shildon; Seaham Red Star v West Auck-land; Tow Law Town v Crook; Whickham v PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brore Rangers v Fraserburgh; Buckle Thatle v Lossiermouth; Cove Rangers v Forres Mechanics: Fort William v Naim

County; Hurthy v Wick Academy; Rothes v Bign City. SMIKINOFF TRISH LEAGUE Premier Di-SMERVOFF BISSM LEAGUE Premier visione Bargor v Limialot Chrismille v Gen-toran; Crusaders v Gleneuon; Portadown v Ards, Frist Divisione Ballyclere Comradown v Coteratine; Displieny v Carnot, Larne v Newy; Omagh Town v Ballymena. Newry, Urnagi rown v Barymenia.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Barry
Town; Briton Ferry v Carnaes Bay; Caersws v Corway (2-30); Connah's Quay Nomads v Non Pentre; Flunt Town Utd v
Caernarion Town (2-30); Inter Caroff v Afan
Lido: Llansantificat v Llanell; Newtown v
Holywell; Porthmadog v Aberystwyth. Postponads: Carnbran v Rhy! BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Deny City v Shamrock Rovers (7.30); Drogheda Utd v Cork City (7.45);

Step Rovers v Shelbourne (7.30). ANON INSURANCE COMBINATION First FA YOUTH CUP Fourth round: Liverpool field Utd (2.0).

CIS LEAGUE PROMISSON

28 Alessus v Moissoy

39 Spreham Hood v Herroton

40 Constrution v Horridon

41 Chertsey v Worthing

42 English v Herridon

43 Canis v Herridon

43 Grays v Verodi 44 Heyes v Sunton Utd 45 Hitchin v Yeading LINESOND LEARNE PRESIDES ENVISION 46 Bishop Auctions v Barnier Bridge 47 Chorley v Accingtor Stanley: 48 Cohen Bay v Gettshorough: THEOREM'S SCOTTEN CLP

Rugby League SELK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fourth ford v St Helens (3.05).

Rugby Union 2.30 unless stated TOUR MATCH: Pontypridd v New South

CIS INSURANCE COUNTY CHAMponed: Middlesex v Surrey.

PILKINSTON CUP Fifth round: Leeds v
London Insh (2.0); Leicester v Saracers
(3.0); Wakefield v Bait; Winnington Park
v Wasps. Postponed: Bedford v Bristol;
Newcastle v Harfequins; Nottingham v
Gloucester; West Hardlepool v Coventry. COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSIEP Na-tional League Two: Postponed: Mose-ley v Northampton. HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE Se

Division: Abercynon v Llanharan; maen v Caerphilly; Pontypool v Mae maen v Caerpniny; Honsybool v Maesteg. SCOTTISH TEMMENTS REGIONAL LEAGUE (2.0) East One: Currie v Mus-seburgh; Haddington v Boroughmuf; Pre-ston Lodge v Ednburgh Wanderers; Watsonians v Biggar, East Two: Edinburgh Academicas v Dundee NSP; Grangemouth v Henri's FF; Kiskasley v Corstorpine; Stew-art's Mewille FP v Gordonians, South: Gala

GELL'S SCOTTPSH LEAGLE SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION Brechin & Arbrosth
Condenheeth v Lythgston
East String v Allos

THE COMPONIENT ROUND
STREET SECUTION VIII (4.0).
TENERUS SECUTION COM

11-min (100ki) Whateful Welliam y Copic (3.0) (of Easter Road, Edinburge) v Langholm; Hawick v Peebles; Jed-Forest v Selfdrk; Melrose v Kelso, West: Glasgow High-Netvinside v Glasgow Academicals; Glasgow Southern v Ayr; Kümarmock v West of Scotland; Wigtownshire v Stirling County

West of Scotland; Wigtownshire v Stirling County.

GLIB MATCHES: Camborne v Penryn; Cambridge University v Richmond (3.0); Cheltenham v Gloucester Old Boys; Pylde v Broughton Park; Henley v Bath Utd; Hull Ionians v Sale; Kendel v Hardlepool Roves; Liverpoof St; Helens v Harngate (2.15); Lianelli v Durwant; London Welsh v Newbridge (2.15); Morey v Northern 3.0); Penzance v Redruth; Plymouth v Nuneaton; Rotherham v Orrelt; Sandal v Tynedale (2.15); Sheffield v Manchester; South Wales Police v Treorchy; Swansea v Bridgend; Tehard v Wasps XV; Welset v Rosslyn Park (2.15). Cancelled: Askeans v Havent; Birmingham Sollhull v Birkerhead Park; Cantiff v Newport; London Scottish v Camberley; North Walsham v Southend; Wharfedale v Barkers Butts

Hockey WOMEN'S INDOOR EUROPEAN NA-TIONS CUP (10.0-5.30) (at Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena, Glasgowi. NASTRO AZZIERO SOUTH PREMIER: Anchorans v Spencer, Ashford v Lewis; Bedgenham v High Wycombe; Bournemouth v Old Walcountians; Farehern v Woking; Gora Court v Wokingham; Maldenhead v Wimbledon; Old Kingstonians v Newbury; Oxford Hawks v Chichester; Winchester v DTZ MEDLAND PREMIER: Blowwich v North

Notts; Harbome v Hampton in Arden; Khal-sa v Bridgnorth; Loughborough Students v John Player; Nottingham v Belper. ADNAMS EAST PREMIER: Cembridge City v Bury St Edmunds; Cembridge Univ. v Best-ops Stortford; Ipswich v Chelmsford; Peappe ourgroup; ipswich v Chelmsford; Pe-terborough Yown v Colchester; Regionage and liford v Bedford Yown.

SURLIFE WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES PREMIER: Exerter Univ v Bristo! Univ; Plymouth v Whitchurch; Robinsons v Bath Buccs: Swansea v Cheltenham: NORTH DIVISION ONE: Ben Rhydding v Sheffield Benkers; Formby v Norton; Har-rogate v Neston; Southport v Timperley; Warmigton v Haliflax.

WOMEN'S TRYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES

Basketball 8.0 unless stated BUDWESER LEAGUE: Derby Storm v Doncaster Parithers; Hernel Royals v Birming-ham Bullets (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers

ice bockey BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Divi BRITISH LEASUE Premier Division: Fife Pyers v Basingstoke Bison (7.15); Milton Keynes Kings v Newcestle Warriors (6.30); Nottingham Parithers v Durham Wasps (6.30); Sheffield Steelers v Cardiff Devis (7.0). First Divisions Blackburn Hawks v Sch-hull Barons (6.0); Bracknell Bees v Guild-ford Flames (6.0); Chelmsford Chaeframs v Newschool Barons Chaeff 200; Dirithmas Remise Remise Research

chester Storm (6.30); Durnines Bord

Wikings v Medway Bears (7.30); Swindon Wildcats v Billingham Bombers (5.30); Telford

ley Pirates (7.30). Other sports ATHLETICS: Great Britain v Russia (at NoSNOOKER: Regal Welsh (at Newport Centre, Gwent).

**TOMORROW** Football BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Pre-mier Division: St Patrick's Athletic v Dun-daik (6.0).

Rughy League SELK CIT CHALLENGE CLP Fourth round: Bradford Bulls v Barley (3.0); Cardisle v Wake-field (2.0); Deusbury v London Broncos (3.0); Huddersfield v Sheffield Eagles (3.30); Hull v Hurslet (3.15); Hull Kingston (3.30); Hull v Hurslet (3.15); Hull Kingston

13-30; Fuller Virtiset (3-3); Full rungsuh Rovers v Leigh (3-15); Keighley Coulgars v Barrow (3-15); Oldham v Warrengton (3-0); Rochdale Homets v Thatto Heath (3-0); Salford v Featherstone (3-0); Swenton v Leeds (3-0); Wurarhaven v Halifax (3-30); Wigan v Bramley (3-0); Worlungton Town v Widnes (3-0). WOMEN'S EUROPEAN INDOOR NATIONS CUP: Semi-finals (9.30-10.45); Final (3.45) (at Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena, Glas-

NATIONAL LEAGUE Second Division: Oxford University v Slough (1.30) (at Abington). **Basketball** BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Leo-

pards (5.0); Doncaster Partners v Newcastle Cornets (5.30); Sheffield Sharks v Worthing Bears (6.15); London Towers v Derby Storm (5.0).

ice hockey BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Cardiff Davis v Humbersde Hawks (6.19); Durham Wasps v Basngstoke Bison (6.30); Newcesde Warrors v Nottingham Parithers (6.30); Slough Jets v Fife Pyers (6.30), First Div-ision: Bracknell Bees v Medway Bears (5.15); Guldford Flames v Creimsford Cheftarrs (5.15); Manchester Storm v Soli-hull Barons (6.0); Blackburn Hawks (6.30); Pasiley Pritises v Peterbornush Payres (6.30);

Other sports SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (at Newport



# Yorkshire's big spenders eye a future full of prizes

today's Pilkington Cup fifth round. It is true they both play with an oval ball and each are members of the Rugby Football Union. Though whatever other similarities there are beconsidered as coincidental, because Leeds and Park are at opposite ends of rugby's increasingly important financial spectrum. Neither club has

reached the last 16 before. For Winnington Park, once the recreational section of the local ICI plant, their tie against Wasps, of the First Division, at Burrows Hill, on the edge of noon to draw from the romance

land scrum-half, is back to give a hand with coaching. The tween them ought to be north-west has seen its share of cup upsets in recent years. Bath falling at Waterloo three seasons ago was one such, though, in 1989, Aspatria's 6-3 defeat of Moseley, of National League One, takes some beating. Morris may well think it time-

ly to remind his new charges of that dramatic reverse. He had only recently left Park for Liverpool St Helens when the Cumbrians from North One - a

out of the cup. If Aspatria could of the cup and make a few bob. do it to Moseley, why can't Park Park's most illustrious son do the same to Wasps? Park may Dewi Morris, the former Eng- be relatively impoverished, but they are big-hearted and exude the qualities which bound the game together before the dis-

covery of money.

Not that any of this will remotely interest Leeds. The Yorkshire club have other priorities than their tie with the Second Division promotion candidates, London Irish.
There will be little romance at Clarence Field, and the sponsorship money - £3,000 even if they lose - is no more than petty cash. Because Leeds are perity. The heart of the city has

Leeds and Winnington Park of dreams. For the League Five league below Park - dumped the previous season's semi-finalists

Paul Stephens on two rugby sides with very different goals who meet today

> have few worries; they have plenty of the stuff.

When Sir John Hall took control of Newcastle, he said he would pump and prime the club until it was a success. Leeds are already pumped and primed though, like Newcastle, they have yet to achieve anything more significant than a handful of cup victories. But, for both, it is surely only a matter of time. Leeds has not just ridden out the recession, it reeks of pros-

rich. If modern rugby is about been a building site for the past money, then Leeds ostensibly decade, as it has surged to become the most important financial centre outside London. In 1991 the city's two senior clubs, Headingley and Roundhay, merged to form Leeds RUFC. Although the new club desperately sought to relocate, it took almost three years of planning negotiations before they could sell Headingley's avoid relegation where, ironiground - where they remain until the end of the season - to a

supermarket group for £2.25m. The interest on the capital provides almost £200,000 annually, in addition to membership fees and sponsorship and, once Roundhay's ground is sold, for on the payroli are his former another £1.2m, Leeds will be the club mates Colin Stephens, best-resourced club in the north. Soon they will move to a purpose-built stadium at Lawnswood, on the city outskirts. Before then, there is the op-

portunity to play some of their home games at the Leeds Rugby League Club's ground at Headingley. This supposes that the union club - currently ninth in the Fourth Division - will cally, they would join Winnington Park should they fail. In order to avoid that calamity, Leeds have begun to spend. Last week they announced

the signing of the Llanelli and Wales lock, Phil Davies. Already Mark Appleson and Rick Mc-Cartney from Sale, Orrell's thorne and Kern Yates, the England Students flanker.

the most well-heeled. Davies, for instance, will move in June to Leeds where he starts as player-coach, having agreed a threeyear contract for £150,000. The remainder are still serving registration periods and none is eligible to face the Exiles. Instead, Leeds will rely on the team

Second Division Waterloo. Ken Higgins, the Leeds forwards coach, watched Irish beat London Scottish in the league a fortnight ago. "We have to Gerry Ainscough, plus the contain them up front." Higgins: 2 Wakefield pair Mike Caw-said "And if we are able, we can more than match them out wide. For most of the team, to-Recruitment on this scale is morrow will be the biggest day way beyond the means of all but in their rugby lives. After tha we've got to knuckle down in the league. Then we can build to: wards next season, a new home.

and a future. But, for the me ment anyway, none of our neplayers and all of our money ar any guarantees of success."

Try telling that to Winnin

# Els breezes through on even keel

ANDY FARRELL reports from Singapore

In terms of temperament, Ernie Els puts himself somewhere in between the horizontally laidback Fred Couples and the fiery-bellied Colin Montgomerie. When he is playing well, Els has the easy air of someone who can make anything happen. A birdie-eagle finish at the Johnnie Walker Classic here yesterday gave him his second successive five-under 67 and a one-shot lead over Sweden's

The South African admits to having had a temper as a junior. Occasionally, it can flare up when things are not quite going to plan. He has broken two clubs in his career, one a putter in Japan at the end of last year. "I didn't want to break it, it just broke," he said. In taking a one-shot halfway lead here, Els has not dropped a shot in 36 holes.

Greg Norman, the world No 1, was impressed by the 26year-old ranked two places below him. "The guy has such an even-keel attitude on the course," the Australian, who partnered Els, said. "I was never as level-headed at 26. Everyone has a weakness, but I don't know what his is."

Norman could only watch as Els, who started at the 10th, bit the shot of the day, and then bettered it. The first was a sixiron to two feet at the short eighth, the next a three-iron from 235 yards at the par-five ninth to the same distance. "I thought it was going in." Norman said. "It is good to watch

someone playing that well." The Shark, having recovered from his chest infection, had to birdie his last hole to make the cut at one under par. "I was a little stiff at the start, but I hit my irons well and the finish made up for missing a few chances." Els said. "When you are playing well, you don't get uptight. Things work for you. If vou are off-line, there is a way through the trees. The came scems a bit easier. I have said. worked at being more patient. You look at Fred Couples, you could not get a more laid-back guy in the world, and then there is Monty..."

Taking aim: John Daly, of the United States, fires his second shot at the 17th in Singapore yesterday

Els had four weeks off at home before winning the South African Open in Cape Town last week. "I had a lot of barbecues and quite a few lagers. I'm fresh. I'm thinking well. It is a good feeling to be playing well again. I haven't made a bogey and that is unusual for me," he

Ominous talk. Ian Woosnam also wintered well - "none of this no drinking" – and is lying on an ice-pack each night to ease his back problem. A four-

"I enjoyed the winter and i am enjoying playing again." the Welshman said. "I don't know why, but I have rediscovered some rhythm in my swing."
A two-iron to 10 feet at the

par-five 15th gave him only the second eagle of the day at the hole. Karlsson, the joint birdies on the inward half to rob Lancashire's Paul Eales of five-under-par 67.

under 68 left him among many three behind Els, including "We differ by about 70 yards off "We differ by about 70 yards off the tee," said Eales, 32, comparing his game with that of the

Though he needed two more clubs than the South African at the 194-yard eighth, his result was even better, the ball finishing a foot from the hole. Eales, who eats up to seven snack meals a day, drank half overnight leader, made three a bottle of water a hole to combat the heat during his

Photograph: Stephen Munday/Alisport

Offe Yesterday

JOHNOTE WALKER CLASSIC (Israin Muraix, Singapore) Second-round scores (GS or in unions extrated): 1346 E Dis (SA) 67 67.
125 0 Kertsson (Swe) 66 69, 136 P Esles 69 67, 137 A Peinter (Aus) 67 70; D Clarke 67 70; W Filey (Aus) 70 67; A Coltart 69 68; I Wossnam 69 68; F Couples (US) 68 69, 138 Z More (Burma) 68 70; S Arnes (R) 68 70; H Clark 70 68; I Aold Clapan) 70 68; P Cury 68 70; B Hughes (Aus) 67 72; D McKenzie (Aus) 68 70; R Willis (Aus) 73 65, 139 D Ferdon (Aus) 69 70; P McGnley 71 68; Choi Sang-ho (S Kor) 70 69; Park Nem Shi (S Kor) 72 67; D Durasy (US) 71 68.
140 R Claydon 73 67; I Day (US) 87 73; J Van de Velde (Fr)69 71; A Hunter 69 71; P Sentor (Aus) 69 71; S Forance 68 72; P Moss (US) 69 71; C Perry (Aus) 72 68. 141 °C Papol (The) 72 69; T Price (Aus) 69 71; C P Capol (The) 73 68. 1462 D Papol (The) 75; S Sinker (Ger 71 70; D Bransdon (Aus) 71 70; J Payne 73 68, 142 D

Cole (Aus) 69 73; Haisen Chin-sheng (Fal) 69 73; R Green (Aus) 73 69; F Lindgren (Swe) 71 71; F O'Melley (Aus) 73 69; F Lindgren (Swe) 71 71; F O'Melley (Aus) 72 70; R Burns 73 69; J O'Meesle (US) 70 72; S Mont (Japan) 74 68; B Langer (Ger) 68 74; C Oswer (Fir) 72 70; J Townsend (US) 68 74; P McWhitney (Aus) 72 70; A Gilligan (Aus) 73 69; Km Jung Duk (S Kor) 72 70; R Allenby (Aus) 73 69; Km Jung Duk (S Kor) 72 70; R Allenby (Aus) 74 68; J Singh (Ind) 69 73; Chus Guen-soon (Sing) 76 67, JAS M Moutend 73 70; G Normen (Aus) 71 72; P Affick 69 74; S Girm (Aus) 70 73; L Westwood 73 70; M Lation 68 75; G Nickleaus (US) 71 72; P Fowler (Aus) 71 72; R Boxall 73 70; D Robertson 71 72; M Jonzon (Swe) 71 72; G Or 71, 72; K Kornori (Lapen) 70 73. Did not qualify (selectuse): J44 A Bosset (Swé) 71 73; F Norlio (NZ) 73 71; I Pyrman 70 74. J46 P Broedhust 74 72. J47 R Reffeny 69 78. 150 A Forsbrand (Swe) 77 74. Disqualified: W Smith (Aus).

## **Newcastle not** complaining as freeze hits Cup 3

ture chaos caused this season by a couple of frozen weekends to appreciate how very fortunate English rugby has been during the previously element years that have blessed the Courage Clubs' Championship since its inauguration in 1987.

Having been told often enough by the Rugby Football Union that its ever-changing "structured season" cannot accommodate any more matches, we now find the final three months of 1995/96 plunged into congestion, with yesterday's postponement of half of today's Pilkington Cup last-16 ties compounding the situation created wasteful and pounding the situation created wasteful have covers at 1 College George which gives their

over the New Year. Still, at least one club were not complaining. Once Dick Best, Harlequins director of rugby, had told the match referee, Jim Coulson, that he would prefer not to travel to the north-east last night in order to make another, probably futile, inspection of the Kingston Park pitch at 11.15 this morning, Newcastle

were perfectly happy.

A decision on a new date for this match will have to go to the RFU's competitions sub-committee, the likely alternatives being 10 or 24 February. If it is the former, three of Rob Andrew's signings – Dean Ryan, Nick Popplewell and Graham Childs will have completed their 120-day registration.

The latter, which is the date the quarter-finals are due to be played, would be even better for Newcastle, because by then Tony Underwood, Gary Armstrong and Doddie Weir would also be eligible, adding a total of five full internationals and one A cap to the pool from whom Andrew can choose. The former England outside-half himself became available today. "At the moment it's a First v

Second Division clash and on the 10th they are starting to as-semble a fairly potent outfit." Best said yesterday. "Without doubt it will make it a totally different tie. We just want the earliest possible date." Newcastle

may beg to differ.
Also postponed yesterday

You need only look at the fix- Steve Bale preview ws the Pilkington Cur ties that have

> beaten the weath were three other Cup ties o n the eastern side of the Penr lines, West Hartlepool v Cove intry, Nottingham v Gloucester Bedford v Bristol. West and Coventry are considering: rear-

lege Grove which give: s their game against Bath, the hi olders, a chance of proceeding, and Leicester's covers at V velford Road have famously a llowed them to play matches; when others have been called off.

Sky's cameras, which had been intended for Nevvcastle, were yesterday diversted to Leicester where Saracens will try to show their remarkable defeat of the Tigers at Southeate in November was no fluke and that their subsequent descent of the First Division - notwithstanding the investment of £2.5m by Nigel Wray, who now owns the rights to the Noddy books as well as the Wallaby stand-off Michael "Noddy" Lynagh - has been too

bad to be true. It is asking a lot. Leicester handsomely compensated for their Saracens misadventuge by winning their League game at Bath three weeks ago and, amid the many questions about how England and English rugby should be playing, they have a simple strategy which is habitually too powerful for anything the

domestic game can throw at it. On the other side of the Pennines there are covers on the ground too at Winnington Park. who are desperate for their tic against Wasps - Fifth Division v First - to go ahead after the erection of temporary stands in the hope of a crowd at least 10 times the usual 250. In Cheshire they feel themselves to be more sheltered from Siberia's ky blast

### Palace's cup runs could pose problem

Basketball

**DUNCAN HOOPER** 

If Crystal Palace complete a hattrick of National Cup wins over Budweiser League clubs in next month's semi-finals, they will pose an unprecedented problem for the organisers of Cup finals day at Sheffield Arena on Sunday 3 March. Palace could face two finals,

four hours apart. Palace, the First Division champions, are also through to the last four of the National Trophy, which excludes Budweiser League clubs, and have a semi-final against Croydon, whom they have already beaten by close to 50 points this season.

The Trophy final is at noon. followed by the women's final two hours later and the senior pien's final at 4pm.

Alton Byrd, the Palace player-coach and general manager. admits the chances seem remote of heating Sheffield Sharks. the Budweiser League champions and Cup holders, in next month's semi-finals, "But then." Byrd said. The one gave us a chance of beating London Leopards in the last eight.

Leopards, currently fourth in the Budweiser League, lost 80-75 to Palace in overtime on Wednesday and followed Doncaster Panthers out of the compretty well with Sheffield for size and play a similar game based

## **Britain looking towards Atlanta**

Great Britain, teetering on the edge of Olympic qualification, play Malaysin this morning in their sixth game here, with a point for either side enough to give them a place in Atlanta.

Anything other than victory for Canada against Spain, in their game which follows Britain's match, will give the British their ticket, but tension is high in the British camp, with so much support for hockey in this country resting on the tournament.

The manager, David Whittle, was in a forthright mood yesterday: "We shall be going for an allout win. We are best at going forward and Whits [coach David Whitaker] does not like negative play. What's more, we need a win to stop the idea that we are becoming the draw specialists."

Bill Colwill reports from Barcelona on the Olympic hockey qualifying tournament

of course, is largely the result of the type of qualifying tournament this is - a round-robin with just three of the eight teams falling by the wayside. Already Belgium and Belarus have drifted away from the rest of the pack.

Both coaches made it clear yesterday that the results of two recent encounters between Malaysia and Great Britain at Bisham Abbey, where Britain won 1-0 and 5-1, would have lit-

tle bearing on today's game.
Volker Knapp, the German coach of Malaysia, said then that he felt Britain were in the top six or so in the world. Yesterday he was quite prepared to shake He was referring to the fact thands with Whittle and settle for that so far Britain have drawn a draw, but Whitaker's policy hands with Whittle and settle for three of their four games. This, since England's limited success

in the European Cup in Dublin has been to attack, and only the Dutch have scored more goals in this tournament.

Attacking hockey, coupled with the support of the specialist corner striker, Calum Giles, has brought its rewards and should bring celebrations today. Whittle's target is four points from their last two games and this is well within their reach. There has been much talk in

Barcelona as the International

Rules Board started a series of meetings yesterday about the use of a specialist corner striker. The Dutch coach, Roelant Oltmans, who saw victory snatched from his side on Thursday when Giles scored a late equaliser, said: "They are

quite within their rights to do it but I don't like it, nor do many of the coaches here. It's not good for the game. My players have to practise passing, tack-ling and dribbling. He just has to practise one thing. It makes

he difference, he has shown it." Whitaker concedes he is none too keen on the idea but admits, if he can exploit the rules to win another Olympic medal, then he will. The good news is that whatever is decided here, and it scems likely they will revert to the previous rule which allowed no substitution after the award of a penalty corner, the rules will not be changed before Atlanta.

Giles, who so far in the five games has only been on the

#### pitch for 15min 42sec, from a possible 350 minutes, for his five goals, looks likely to add to his tally against Malaysia and Belgium in the last two games.

## Nicholls inspires adventurous England

PETER COLWILL

reports from Glasgow

England's women made certain of qualifying for the semi-finals of the European Indoor Cup. beating Austria 10-1 and Slovakia I1-4 on the opening day of the tournament at the Kelvin Hall yesterday.

These were two powerful petition at the hands of the and purposeful performances by south London club. "In fact," | a side who slipped into top gear Byrd added, "we match up after a shaky start in both matches. After conceding a second-minute goal to Austria, on patient offence and good de- taken with aplomb by Andrea Jelinek. England, galvanised

by the arrival of Mandy Nicholls whose penetrating runs threatened constant danger, stormed their way to a 5-1 interval lead. Lorraine Marsden snatched two early goals and in between Tina Cullen finished a delightful flowing move. Jane Smith converted a corner to make it four with less than 10 minutes gone and Lynne Bollington added the fifth in the last

minute of the half. Jackie Crook and Sam Wright had both scored from second-half corners before Crook hit the post with a penalty stroke. Further goals followed from Nicholls and Cullen

before Lucy Culliford, with her first touch in an indoor international, rounded a defender and laid on Marsden's third.

England's destruction of Slovakia, who lost 10-2 to Spain in the opening match, was even more emphatic, with eight goals coming in the first half. Crook converted five corners, although she again failed with a penalty stroke and Nicholls scored two including one marvellous effort after riding two heavy challenges. There was a goal each for Wright, Marsden, Bollington and Cullen. In the other pool, Scotland

made short work of Denmark

winning 12-1. Wendy Fraser scored three as did Susan Gilmour, including two in the first five minutes of her indoor international debut.

The shock result was France's 1-0 win against Germany, who had never been beaten by a European country. Sophie Llobet forced in a 15th-minute corner at the third attempt and the Germans could find no way past the French defence, in which Llobet and Sophie Le

JOSSEC WETE OUISIANDING.
EUROPEAN BEDOOR CUP (Kelvin, Hall, Gine-gow): Pool & France 1 Germany C; Scotland 12 Dervent: 1: Germany 10 Denmert: 1: Scot-land 4 Parace 0. Pool B: Spain 10 Stockin 2: England 10 Austre 1; England 11 Stockin 4; Spain 12 Austrie 0.

## Sri Lanka ravaged by rampant Waugh

Cricket

Australia 502-9 dec

Sri Lanka faced a daunting task to avoid defeat in the third and final Test after the allrounder Steve Waugh lifted Australia to a formidable firstinnines total with a fine century in Adelaide yesterday. Waugh plundered the Sri

Lankan attack for 170 in a marathon seven-hour innings before Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, declared an hour before the close on 502 for 9. The tourists reached 80 without loss at the close, still need-

ing 223 runs to avoid the follow-on and the likelihood of a third successive Test defeat. The Sri Lanka opener, Sanath Jayasuriya, responded positively with a succession of attacking shots, including one cover drive which went for six, to remain unbeaten on 47 alongside Chandika Hathurusinghe on

Resuming on 70, Waugh hit 13 fours and one five on his way to a second successive century against Sri Lanka, eclipsing his 131 not out in Melbourne in the second Test last month. He played a near-flawless innings before deflecting the first ball after tea on to his stumps. Australia have already wrapped up the series 2-0 with

victories in the first two Tests after reaching successive firstinnings totals of 500 for 6 and 617 for 5 declared.

The Sri Lankan bowlers once again struggled for penetra-tion and accuracy as Australia added to their overnight score of 239 for 5 with ease. The wicketkeeper Ian Healy hit an untroubled 70 and the pace bowler Paul Reiffel made a

Test-best 56. It was Waugh, however, who capitalised on Sri Lanka's lacklustre display. But it was an ag-onising dismissal for the New South Wales batsman, who watched helplessly as the ball brushed against the stumps with only enough force to dislodge a single bail.

Sri Lanka paid the price for a poor fielding display after spilling a succession of catches during the innings, most significantly when Wangh was dropped on 37 by the wicketkeeper, Romesh Kaluwitharana, on the first day.

(Second dey; Australia won toss)
AUSTRALIA - First tunings
(Overnight: 239 for 5)
S R Waugh b Pushpiaturusus
11 A Heaty o Pushpiaturusus
b Dhaymasons ......

P R Reiffel e Gunshiha b Wickernesinghè ....56 

SRĪ LANKA - First Innings Enhani (to 166 not.)

Total (for 0, 16 overs)

To bat: A P Gurusinte. "P A de Sahe, S Renaturga, H P Tilelezatur, TR S Kaluntherara.
H D P K Chemisseria. W P U J C Vess, G P
Wickramesinghe, KR Pushpaluniara.
Bowling: McDermott B-1-28-0; McCrath
6-1-22-0; Reiffel 2-1-7-0; Werne 3-0-15-0.

#### **QUOTES OF** THE WEEK

Mhoever doesn't like Attetion winning ought to de. Jesus tall y 68, controversial president of Attetion Madrid football out.

Rain favours might over art.

Merio Zegalo/Brazi's coach, blames
the weather for the 2-0 deleat by Mexico in the Concecar Gold Cop final in-

ico in the Concace Gold Cup final InLos Angales.

Il was on £16 a week - and even
then Jon found a way of taking
money off me. Gery Linelaer on hy
early days with agent Jon Holges, at
an after-dinner speech.

I tepp wordering It, when I went
to fat an overhead, one of them would
fall in my mouth. Changle Rablen, worlied about the inacts attracted to the
stadium Righs during her epic night
match against Azenaus SanchezVicarlo at the Australian Open.

When it he got the break on me in -Vicario at the Australian Open.

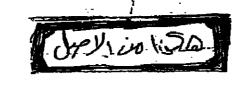
When he got the break on me in the third, it's time for a miracle or get off the court. I went for the miracle. Andre Agassi alter coming back from losing the first, two sets to best Jim Counter for a place in the semi-finals.

The Lord blessed me with great ability to move around the court. I minoping for the final on Sunday it will be even better, so I'm looking forward to that and excited about that and excited about that and excited about the arm state for me. Michael Chang explains! his success is Agassi nurs out of miracles. In their semi-final.

Mi had to befieve it. The headmaster told me. The less person you expect to wind you up is your headmaster. Poul Sampson, on being told sesciol of his cell-up to the England Number whom severe. school of his call-op to the England rugby union squad.

It would rather the tank cheered the players. The crowd should have a given the team encouragement in the less 15 millions when they really needed it. The players during done not deserve the abuse — they if done not deserve the abuse — they if done not deserve the abuse — they if done not deserve the players for Lambde, the Palkith mandage, defends his side against the herorisching of fans after a 1-0 detect by his control of the Scottish Premier Dission.

We don't view it as a victory. But it has put out a fire that was start be of by someone else. Along they are they are the start of the source of the source of the same that they are the they are rugby union squad Et's 100 per centructory, the cit has been completely exponerate Sam Hammain, the Wimbledt



# **Booking rides proves** a monster operation

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Dave Roberts is a sports agent. but the only time he says "mon-ster" is while reading fairy stories to his two children. In the old days agent used to

be a nice word. It described the Avon lady and 007, but then along came the benefactors of the housing boom of the 1980s and the creation of Eric Hall in the football world. Roberts, who could fill a jockeys' room with his stable of riders, is trying to change all that. "I don't class myself as an agent, it's not a word I like. I'd describe myself as someone who just books rides," he said.

When it comes to putting hottoms on saddles in jump racing there is no one to touch Dave Roberts. He represents 15 jockeys, many of them leading names, and makes what he calls "a good living", slicing 10 per cent off the 10 per cent his men receive in prize-money commission. There is, however, a price to pay, and it is time.

The windows of opportunity to speak to Roberts are open as frequently as those of a mountain lodge in the Rockies. The first words likely to be heard when you call him are "can you

hang on a moment please?".

It all starts at a time when even Postie has yet to pull his pants on. "I work from 5.30 to 9.30 and that is not the passage when the hands pass each other just three times]," Roberts said. "You get calls any time between those hours."

Phase one is trawling through the entries and form books, pinpointing the likely winners for his cavalrymen. Contact with the nation's trainers is made from

which Roberts views at his lo- track and wait for somebody to cal bookies (and a hugely professional sight he looks too as he makes calls on his mobile phone between events). The agent leaves when the broom comes out to sweep away the dead slips and spends the rest of the evening back on the

This, it has to be said, does not happen all the time. Every year, without fail, Roberts takes the family abroad for a fortnight

get me in.'

Briefly the manager for an In-dian owner who had horses with Geoff Lewis, Roberts first represented Jason Swift parttime. Swift lived with Dean Gallagher, and Paul Harley moved in with him. Soon, Roberts was attracting aspiring young men like Fagin, and his attention concentrated on the winter game.

Not many of Britain's train-

'Adrian has put in so much since coming over here it's a tragedy he hasn't been champion so far'

for the first two weeks in July (and presumably asks them what they have been doing for the previous 12 months). For the rest of the year, seven days a week, he is the chap who ap-pears to have been the victim of a prankster with superglue who has sabotaged the telephone

During the ice age that has wept in this weekend, Roberts is hardly resting by the log fire with a Scotch in his hand. "In the bad weather trainers are ringing me up and jokingly asking if I'm taking it easy," he said. "Relatively I am, but there are still entries coming out."

Dave Roberts, though, has not always been as committed as this to the problems set before him. By the age of 12, a lot of the chalk he saw was not going on blackboards but rather against horses' names. "I used to skive off school and go to Kempton and Sandown and

ers greet newcomers to the sport with an invitation for tea, and Roberts was no exception. "Like anything else it has taken quite a long time to build up trust and respect," he said. "But I feel I get on with 99 per cent of trainers well now and some have become friends."

The accelerator was really deessed in the early 1990s when Roberts took over the affairs of a young Irishman who was seeking his fortune in Britain, a rider called Adrian Maguire. When the agent talks of Maguire he invariably uses the "we" in discussing his fortunes.

The jockey's narrow failure to win the championship in the last two seasons has obviously hurt both, but, like a father and son at sports day, it is difficult to tell if it was combatant or spectator who was most disappointed. "He [Adrian] has put so much in since coming over here and he's grown so much get the bus to Ascot," he said. both as a jockey and a person "I used to stand outside the it's a tragedy he hasn't been

champion jockey so far, Roberts said.

'To ride 194 winners, like he did in the first year we were close, and not be the champion is a scandal really, If someone was awake towards the end of that season I was on the phone to them and I watched every race. I was close to a ner-vous wreck so I hate to think of the demands it placed on Adri-

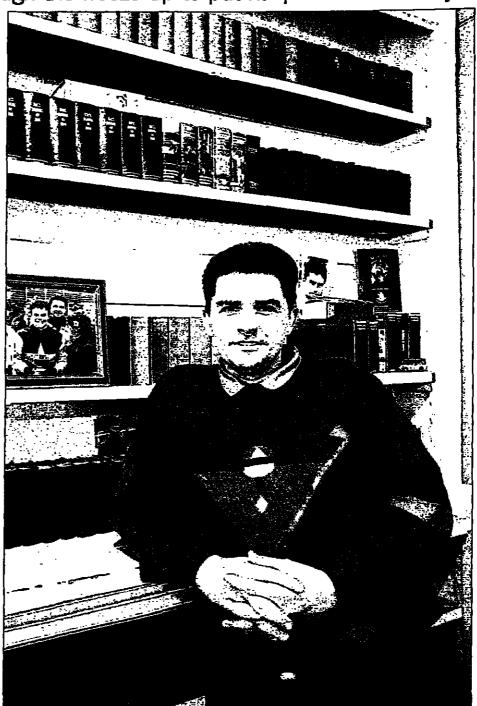
an and Richard [Dunwoody].

"Last year I firmly believe we had the ammunition to win, but we had a freak accident. Adrian was riding as well as ever and we had all this ammo waiting, but then Desert Fighter ran through a wing at Hereford,"
After a fall at Leicester on

Tuesday. Maguire is again sicklisted with a knee injury. But as he was Roberts's professional springhoard, Maguire is probably his favourite, though he does not let that affect riding decisions. When two or more from the agent's stable are at a race meeting where there is a spare ride, he insists that the trainer takes the pick.

It is ironic following the last two years that Roberts is now destined to contribute to his first jockeys' title with someone other than Maguire. He also represents Tony McCoy and David Bridgwater who, accidents apart, seem to have this campaign's test between them.

If either win the title Roberts, at 35, will reappraise his position as he will have achieved his ambition in what he considers "a young man's game". If he goes, it will be bad news, not only for several jockeys but for British Telecom. In one quarter last year, the three lines and mobile telephone that are Roberts's essential tools cost him £2,000.



It's good to talk: Operating from his Reigate home in Surrey, Dave Roberts uses the form book to sort out likely winners from the entries before spending up to £2,000 a quarter on calls to trainers, persuading them to use his men Photograph: Adam Scott

## Frost hits Cheltenham for third time in a row

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Impington

(Lingfield L40)

NB: Halbert

(Lingfield 3.20)

at the base of Cleeve Hill.

Plumpton.

Jack Frost must have once had a really had day's punting at Cheltenham. The conspiracy of the elements against the Gloucestershire course continues with the loss of a third consecutive card this afternoon, writes Richard Edmondson.

The last time Cheltenham raced was on 8 December. This has denied top hurdlers a run in events such as the Bula and today's Cleeve Hurdle. Kempton's Christmas Hurdle was also lost. But help is at hand for those searching for a prep race for the Cheltenham Festival

A new conditions contest, the Levy Board Hurdle, will be held at Ascot a week on Wednesday, it was announced yesterday, while there will be increased funding of three other hurdle races in the next two weeks. In addition, the Great Yorkshire Chase, which was lost in today's abandoned Doncaster card, will now be transferred to the first March

meeting at Town Moor. Those in charge at Cheltenham were left searching for small specks of comfort following an abandonment which came after three weeks of clear weather. They came up with the view that less racing meant less chance for horses to get injured before the Festival, and the thought that National Hunt racing's showpiece will now be run on near virgin turf.

#### Swing lies low until autumn

Celtic Swing, not seen on a track since last summer, is unlikely to race again until the autumn with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and Breeders' Cup Turf among his targets. The coit is fully recovered

from the knee injury, sustained during the Irish Derby, that ended his 1995 campaign, Nick Babbington, racing manager for owner Peter Savill, said yes-

However, although Celtic Swing will be put back into training by Lady Herries immedi-ately, he will undergo a patient build-up and not reappear until the hack end of the Flat season once the ground eases. Celtic Swing had been en-tered for the Dubai World Cup

n March but had been made

only a reserve for the race. THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing** 

Results 6839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175 - Parabas-1814-181 415 564

There was little time given to front door however, and bethe suggestion that today's card lieves he can satisfactorily precould be moved wholesale to pare One Man. Monday, given the bleak fore-cast, Lingfield's all-weather fix-"He won't go anywhere for a race in preparation as we can alture stands alone today, as may Southwell on Monday as there

ways use a local course to get him ready," Joanie Richards, are inspections tomorrow for the trainer's wife, said yesterday. the turf meetings at Ayr and "It would be between 10 days and a fortnight before Chel-The abandonment of Chel-tenham, but where will depend tenham also took with it the Pil- on which course offers the best lar Property Investments Chase ground and kindest clerk of the course. Touch wood he is fine at the moment, and Gordon had got him just right for Saturday. but unfortunately the situation was always looking hopeless."

Others with something to look forward to are those who will benefit from the extra funding secured by the BHB. The and meant the new upholder of jump racing's appeal, One Man, three novice contests over timber to have their funds swelled would not get the opportunity to prove that his excellence exare Wetherby's Acomb Hurdle, tends to the undulating arena the Sidney Banks Memorial Hurdle at Huntingdon and Indeed, the grey will now go straight to the Gold Cup in an Sandown's Ripley Hurdle. The Moet & Chandon Chase at effort to bury the memory of his Kelso a week on Tuesday will

previous visits to the course. also receive a transfusion. One Man has run just twice The new Ascot hurdle has been made weight for age not at Prestbury Park, when finishing 30 lengths behind Gaelstrom because organisers believe it will as a novice hurdler in 1992, and be more popular than a limited handicap (they think the op-posite) but because several then a poor ninth behind Monsieur Le Cure when favourite for the Sun Alliance (Novices') conditions events have already Chase two years ago. Gordon been called off this winter. The Levy Board Hurdle, with Richards, the seven-year-old's £15,000 in added prize money, trainer, does not voice disquiet about this record outside his will be over two and a half miles

## **Pearce riles Durkan**

Two top amateur riders, Lydia Pearce and John Durkan, exchanged angry words after a incident in the first race at Southwell yesterday. After the stewards had investigated, they banned Pearce for two days for

careless riding.
She had steered Gold Blade, the 13-8 favourite, to an easy sixlength win but the stewards found that after five furiougs of the 12-furlong amateurs' event Pearce had hampered Durkan's mount, Father Dan, who had in turn impeded Anthea Farrell's

Comtec's Legend. But later, Pearce's husband Jeff, the trainer of Gold Blade, did not seem in a conciliatory mood ."Lydia and John did get a bit close," he said. "She probably went by him too fast and he got upset." Durkan, however, was ad-

have ended up on the floor had he not reined back his mount. "The stewards saw fit to suspend her for two days, which says it all. Dangerous riding is dan-gerous riding," Durkan said. The stewards allowed the

mant that one of them would

placings to stand as it was deemed the interference had not affected the result. Both Father Dan and Comtec's Legend were unplaced.

The Jockey Club is to hold two inquiries after horses trained by John White and Jeremy Glover have tested posi-tive for flunixin, a prohibited substance. Take Two, trained by White, was found to contain the substance after a race at Stratford on 26 October last year, as was Glover's Croft Pool after running at Newmarket 12 days

SOUTHWELL

12.40: 1. GOLD SIADE (Mrs. I. Pearce) 13-8 tav; 2. Modest Sope 8-1; 3. Tempering 12-1, 19 ran. 6, 4, () Pearce, Newmarket). Toke £2.40: £1.30; £1.40; £4.50. DF: £7.90. CSF: £14.92. Tetast: £111.92. Tro: £13.10.

1.05; 1. 50 AMAZING (1 Weaver) 9-4 fav;

2. San God 12-1; 3. Indiahra 17-2. 19 ran. Sh-hc, 11. (Abss S Hall, Middlefram). Totac 53-30; £2.00, £3.40, £1.90. Dr. £53.10. CSP, £28.13, Treas: £185.69. Tro: £63.90.

#### LINGFIELD

1.40 Impington

2.10 Agent 2.45 Hand Of Straw 3.50 Distinct Beauty (nb) 4.20 WILD STRAWBERRY (nap)

STALLS: 5f & 1m outside: Remainder: Inside

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers are best at 6f and 0f. Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

■ Racerourse is anoth-cast of fown on 820/28 Eries-bridge road. Lingfield railway station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: All enclosures 59. Annual members of Chellenham, Ascot, Kempton and Sandown will be admitted free, on the production of their 1996 metal badges. CAR PARK: Club S3; remainder f

#### SIS RACING

ers at a ratio of 17.1% giving a loss to a 21 level stake of -214.67; Lord Huntingdon — 35 winners, 160 numers, 21.1% 4:20.55; A Moore — 34 winners, 343 numers, 9.01%, - \$18.75; M Johnston — 33 winners, 193 numers, 17.1%, -\$11.85; W A O'Gornaso — 28 winners, 162 numers, 17.3%, -\$34.45; G L Moore — 26 winners, 223 numers, 11.7%, -\$58.02; R Hollinsbead — 23 winners, 155 numers, 14.8%, -\$51.32.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettori — 81 winners, 250 rides, 25.6%, +553.75; J Weaver — 56 winners, 241 rides, 23.2%, +540.47; R Cockrane — 44 winners, 251 rides, 17.6%, -526.75; D Biggs — 41 winners, 402 rides, 10.2%, -5159.98; T Quinn — 38 winners, 216 rides, 17.6%, -53.78; Emma O'Gorman — 32 winners, 159 rides, 20.1%, -512.69.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Chemicast (1.40) won here on Thursday, Distinct Beau-

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Copper Bright (1.40) & Ultra Beet (3.20) travel 270 mues from P C Hastam's Middleham stable in North Yorkshire; Red Artisle (1.40) covers 268 miles from J Berry's Cockerham yard in Lancashire; Agant (2.10), Pine Resence (2.46) & Lochon (3.20) travel 258 miles from J L Eyre's Sutton Bank stable in North Yorkshire: Chemcast (1.40) covers 254 miles from D Nicholls' Sessay yard in North Yorkshire Montrestar (1.40) travels 198 miles from P D Evans's Legition stable in Powys; Swyn ford Flyer (4.25) covers 150 miles from J A Harris' Bortesford yard in Leicestershire.

## 1.40 CRUSADER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,700 added 3YO

|           | of Penalty Value 12,730                                                                    |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10-0090   | CHESICAST (2) (D) (B 1. Cassidy) D Nichols 9 3                                             |
| 0-        | PING-PONG BALL (285) (News) and Co Ltd T Watson 8 12                                       |
| 243534    | BORN A LADY (93) (D) (D Voncoict) N Lettmoden 8 10T G McLaughtin 3                         |
| 50-4425   | COPPER SPECIFIT (14) (Geseld Sobyl P Hostom 8 9                                            |
| 430300-   | MONTRESTAR (127) (D) (John Puglu P Bens 8 9 5 Senders                                      |
| 260-503   | RED ACUISLE (LO) (Laurel (Leisure) Limmed) J Berry 8.9P Roberts (7)                        |
| 0502-33   | SOUTON D'OR (14) (Mrs J Westors) P Howing 8 6                                              |
|           | SUPPLEME ELLESION (ALIS) (John Berry) John Berry 8 4 M Feeton                              |
| 0443-46   | IMPINISTON (10) (The Sun Pursess Club) W Mur 7 12                                          |
| 04616-0   | MORRORY ZANTY (10) (J L Hams) J L Hams 7 12P Fessey (5)                                    |
|           | - 10 declared -                                                                            |
| TING: 9-4 | Chemicast, 9-2 Born A Lady, 6-1 Mankey Zanty, 7-1 Booton D'Or, 8-1 Implagion, Cop          |
|           | 0600-01<br>0-<br>243534-<br>50-4425<br>430300-<br>260-503<br>0502-33<br>0443-46<br>04616-0 |

per Bright, Red Aculcie, 10-1 Montrector, 16-1 Supre 1995: Ultra Beet 3 8 9 J Stack 4-6 (P C Hasiam) 7 ran rector, 16-1 Supreme Wasion, 25-1 Ping-Pong Ball

FORM GLIDE

CHEMICAST showed much-improved all-weather form to win a course and distance handicap on Thursday and should be able to gain a quick follow-up. The Chilbring colt won museries at Goodwood and Follwistone lists season when with Brian Mechan and showed a liting
for this fast five furlongs to bear Dencing Jack a comfortable length and a half two days
ago. Dencing Jack provides a useful yestistick for form comparisons in this race. He split
Boutoo DYOr and Copper Right when fourth to Last But Not Least on Jermany 13 and they
are held on that showing. A better chance is held by Montey Zandy, who followed a Wokerhampton seller win with a sich to Mystal Max, here (Gf). She was just over four lengths behampton seller win with a sich to Mystal Max, here (Gf). She was just over four lengths behampton seller win with a sich to Mystal Max, here (Gf). She was just over four lengths behampton seller win with a sich to flystal Max, here (Gf). She was just over four lengths behampton seller win with a sich to fly stall the concession from my selection. Inspiringtion
would have a decent chance on her best form off a low weight, but she is running poorly
and finished name lengths behand Dancarg Jack here on January 6 when fourth to Krystal
Max. Born A Lady can pose a big threat if fit for this first run since October. She won first
time up at Southwell in May, so there is every chance that lack of a recent run will not be
a problem and she held her form well on turf strenserics, Montpestar won first time up at
Ripon in Anyl, so she too may not be hindered by an absence since September, Read Acadeler's

## 2.10 CHIEFTAIN MEDIAN ALICTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E)

|   |       | 24000 action 210 Till Louisith tests 20005                                |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| L | 052-2 | AGENT (10) (817) (M Glesson) / Eyre 9 0                                   |
| 2 | 6     | ANNAK-RU (16) (HRH Sultan Ahmed Shah) Mess Gay Kelleway 9 0               |
| 3 | 00-0  | HENER GOLF EAGLE (7) (Hover Reong Club III) T Naughton 9 0T Asistoy (7) 1 |
| • |       | TORMOUNT (USA) (18) (Corolan Partnersho) Lord Huntingson 9 0              |
| į | 4     | HESHLIGHTS (21) (Bootsbury Studi D Mons 8.9                               |
| j | 00-0  | MOGIN (7) (Mass L. A Elliott) J Ffrich-Heyes 8 9 Fortune 3                |
|   |       | _ E rischand _                                                            |

BETTRIE: 8-13 Agent. 9-2 Amel-Ko., 5-1 Highlights, 10-1 Tormount, Haver Golf Engle, 20-1 Mogin FORM GUIDE

AGENT, bought out of While Haggas's yard for 16,000ghs, has run well both starts for Les Eyre at Southwell and Woherbumpton, going down three-quariers of a length to Kings Har-mony in a maden and then running Briganoone (well beaten yestenday) to a neck in his first handicap. That last run was over seven furlongs and Agent was headed close home rewing lad over a furlong out. He did not help his cause by pulling hard early on, but sta-mine should not be a problem round here, even over an early furlong hank-ful and Toer-south were beaten a long way in the course and distance malder won by Well Drawn here on January 11. Anak-ful showed the greater promise and may improve sufficiently to prove the man danger. Highlights was well backed on her debut when 14 lengths fourth to Posen Gold over ten furlongs here. The drop to a mile may help. Mogin and Hever Golf Eagle showed little in Princely Sound's size last week. AGENT, bought out of Wille Haggas's yard for 16,000ghs, has run well both starts for Les

## 2 45 CHURCHILL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added

|     | T      | 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,132                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 0 | 012-05 | SMEET SUPPOSEN (9) (C) (Mrs Christine Rawson) C Dwyer 5 9 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 24  | S005-3 | GALLIC VICTORY (19) (Anthony M Smath) John Berry 5 9 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 30  | 4305-6 | SHUTTLEGOCK (22) (Mrs Anna L Sanders) Mrs N Marayley 5 8 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4 2 | 000-13 | KAND OF STRAW (5) (Mrs Louse Murphy) P Marphy 4 8 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5 6 | 313-11 | MASNUN (USA) (5) (CD) II W Page) R O'Sullian 11 8 9 A Clark 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|     |        | MANDY'S BET (USA) (104) (Im W Smith) N Calastian 4 8 2 F Egian 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|     |        | PINE ESSENCE (USA) (40) (D) (K Mayner) J Eyre 5 8 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 8 3 | 6000-0 | SCOTTISH PARK (17) (CO) (Cearthern Ltd) J L Hams 7 7 12 Quian 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9   |        | LASSER LIGHT LADY (R A M Recocourses Ltd) N Littmoden 4 7 10 Brannia (7) 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| _   |        | and the second s |

- - accesseu -BETTNIC: 11-8 Masseus, 6-2 Hand Of Stran, 4-1 Sweet Supposia, 12-1 Pion Essence, 14-1 Gallic Victory, 18-1 Stattlecock, 20-1 Mandy's Bet, 25-1 Laser Light Lady, 33-1 Scotlish Park 1995: Mediand 5 8 3 D Herrison 15-2 (W G M Turner) 8 ran

FORM CLEDE ND OF STRAW won a Wolverhampton (1m100yds) seller this month and ran well on h HAND OF STRAW won a Wolverhampton (Infillodys) select this morth and ran well on his Equitrack debut when third to Massian over a mile here on January 18. He should be well suited by the step up to ten furiongs. Hand Of Straw has a 5th pull with Massian for under two lengths and is fanciad to overturn placings. Massian gues well here and is effective from seven furiongs to this distance, but is less likely to improve for the step up in distance than the selection. Sweet Supposin linished fifth in that race, beaten about two and a half lengths, and meets Massian 2th worse and Hand Of Straw 7to worse. Gallist Victory was third be-hind 7total Peace here two weeks. 5-7-freich Managive Bert managed a third over hundles as Evieux. Out her first num for Newide Calladran saw her builled up at Kernoton and her flat

#### 3.20 COMET HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,650 added 6f Penalty Val-

| Ľ  |         | ue £3,254                                                              |          |
|----|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1  | 600000- | AGNA (63) (CD) () A Baker) R (*Sullivan 7 10 0                         | Bless :  |
| 2  | 000-552 | ULTRA BEET (7) (C) (D) (Per Express Ltd T/A Nurrarred P Hastern 4 9 12 | Fortune  |
| 3  | 4440-20 | INVOCATION (7) (CD) (R Kemani A Moore 9 9 11                           | I F Esse |
| 4  | 20134-0 | SQUIRE CORRE (18) (G Harwood) G Harwood 4 9 9                          | 100d (7  |
| 5  | 35-2423 | FORT KNOX (7) (C) (Mess C Markonsak) R Flower 5 9 0M                   | Tebbet   |
| 6  |         | LOCHON (24) (D) () Linam) J Bire 589                                   |          |
| 7  | 330305- | PEARL DAWN (78) (D) (Mrs E Keep) G L Moore 68 7                        | laborti  |
| 8  | 13404-0 | JERSEY BELLE (15) (D) (D A Poole) P Makin 4 8 4S \$                    | anders   |
| 9  | 0065-24 | HALBERT (9) (T Barker) P Burstyne 7 8 3P Mcs                           | Caba (3  |
| 10 |         | DESERT WATER (29) (Most Julie Seth ) Bridge 4 8 3                      |          |
|    |         | PRINCE RUDOLF (21) (D) U T Hantage) Mrs N Macauley 4 8 2               |          |
|    |         | SHAVNES DOMAIN (15) (R M Rouge) R Flower 5 7 11                        |          |

FORM GUIDE

LOCHON did well on his Equitrack debut when third to Cheeky Chappy over the 5f. He is equally effective at this top and should appreciate the return to this surface after finishing only mith to Super Rocky at Woherhampton last time. Fort Kinox is in good form, last week finishing that to Reises in the Ladbroke All-Westher Trophy Final here over seven furiongs— two-cation eighth. Hallbert, a length second to Sharp linp on January 6, was found in Random's race lest time after setting the peoc and has a 4lb pull with Fort Kinox, who finished just over a length in front of him. Pean Dewin has not been out since finishing fifth to Friendly Brave here on November 10. Ultim Beet has faced soff tasks in handlarps of the and did well in a claimer last week, finishing a length and a half second to Mios. Squire Corrie had Ultra Beet well behind when winning at Newmarket in September. His first run for Guy Harwood saw him finish fourth to Friendly Brave here but he disappointed behind Chewit last time. Agera may need to drop further in the weights.

Selection: LOCHON

### CHALLENGER HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450 added 3YO 1m

| Ŀ | 2.30    | Penalty Value £3,673                                           |
|---|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 614-1   | BANZHAF (USA) (23) (C) (Bryan Pennick) G L Moore 9 7 Whitmorth |
| 2 |         | DISTINCT BEAUTY (7) (C) (N S Yong) W O'Gorman 8 11             |
| 3 | 413405- | TO THE WHORE (59) (C) (Permine Parmers) G L Moore 8 3          |
| 4 | 0600-1  | SOMERBIGN PRINCE (14) (C) (M Tabor) N Callegran 7 20 Quion     |
|   |         | - 4 dactared -                                                 |

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handloop weight. Sovereign Prince 7st 8th. BETTING: 6-5 Distinct Beauty, 15-8 Sovereign Prince, 7-2 Basshad, 10 1995: Nordines 3 8 11 W Woods 13-2 (R W Armstrong) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

SOVEREIGN PRINCE was highly their on his Newbury debut in September behind Mick's Love over this trip, but was well beaten and showed latte in his next two runs on the all-weather. His first handlesp run caught the eye, however, when he finished down the field behind Krystal Max, carrying 6th more than his true handlesp mark, over six furlongs here. His was well backed two weeks ago when beeting Rawi a length and a half over 71 and shaped as though this trip was needed. Banathar's wins have both been over seven furlongs nere, last time making all to beat Belas Of Holland three lengths. He is 7th higher now and the number-up did not boost the form next time. Distituat Beauthy can pose a begger threat tollowing her three-length win from Beth Knight over ten furlongs last week. To The Whitre, stablemate to Bancharl, is unproven at this trip.

## 4.25 CENTURION HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added fillies 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,089

|                                                                         |         | ELLY PLEETROOT (21) (A S Rest) B Maetran 4 8 12 G Haznes (7) 3 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3                                                                       | 505055- | SACRED SURROR (270) (C E Britaini C Britain 5 8 11             |
| 4                                                                       | 550040- | UNCHARTED WATERS (109) (R M Care) C Cycer 5 8 8 Fortune 1      |
| 5                                                                       | 0305-25 | NEVER SO RITE (14) (1 S Guden) D Arbustmot 4 8 5               |
| 6                                                                       | 221036- | AUL THE JOYS (92) (C) (Mrs G M Gooderham) C Cyser 5 8 3        |
|                                                                         |         | SWYNFORD FLYER (7) (Devel Petalor) J A Harris 7 7 10           |
| - 7 dectared -                                                          |         |                                                                |
| Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True hangicap weight: Swynforg Piver 7st 9th. |         |                                                                |
|                                                                         |         |                                                                |

Refinition weight, for John Marketing, 7-2 All The Joya, 4-1 Never So Rite, 6-1 Sacred Mirror, 8-1 Saya-ford Figur, 10-1 Uncharted Walters, 12-1 Biy Fleetinot 1995: Carpathan 4 8 9 D Hamson 6-4 (Lord Huntington) 8 ran

ALL THE JOYS can make her first appearance on this surface a winning one. All The Joys hasn't raced since a south of 23 behind Snow Princess at Newmarket towards the end of October, but she was returning from a ten-week break when beaten a length and a quarter by Pearl River at Follestone in August, so she can go well firsh. Stablemente Uncharter Witters makes less appeal. Wild Strawberry, who won here over two miles a forting'nt ago and was then a helf-length second to Sir Norman Hott over the same top nine days ago, might find 1 m 4f on the sharp side and is 4to higher than last time Never So Rise pulled too hard when unplaced against No Speeches over course and distance a fortinging ago. Swyntford Flyer could reach the frame, but Elly Fleetfoot makes no appeal on recent evidence and Sacred Mirror has not run since May.

Selection: ALL THE JOYS

#### RACING RESULTS

1.30: 1. CREEN MIGHT OUT (Mss Diana Jones) 8-1; 2. We Markety 5-2 fav; 3. Record Lover 3-1. 10 ran. 9, sh-hd. U Eyre. Therst). Totar 55.10; £2.10, £1.10, £1.40. DF: £8.50. CSF: £28.66. Threast: £69.63. Thre £5.80. 208: 1. IGRA (R Lappn) 4-1; 2. Moels 12-1; 3. Amerika 5-2 fav. 16 ran. 2-7. hd. () Eyre, Thursk). Toke 56:30: 52:60, 53:90, 51:30. DF: 556:90. CSF: 556:64. Thu:

2.30: 1. NEW DOOR PRENCESS (I. Charnock)
14-1; 2. Group Gass 9-1; 3. Youman Other
10-11 tav. 7 ran. 1, 24: (M Camacho, Mal-ton). Telar £11.70; £7.30, £4.00. DF:

2. Westman's Welch 9-4 fav. 3. Young Fredarick 11-2. 7 rm. 1/2. 1/4. U Berry, Cocker-ham). Toks: £13.10; £3.00, £2.40. DF: £20.00. CSF: £25.18.

3.39: 1. DRAGONIOY (A McGione) 11-2; 2. Welsh Helody 6-4 fay, 3. Down The Yard 14-1 19 ram. 2-5. U Payne, Newmarket). Take: £4.10; £1.10, £2.00, £4.20. DF: £8.60. CSF:

£15.71. Trio: £74.30.
4.00: 1. Nancceir Boy (T ses) 4-5 fav; 2.
Bidemani 11-2; 3. Pt's Crairer 14-1. 10 ran.
6, 1/4. (M Ryan, Newmarket). Total £1.80; £1.10, £1.30, £5.50. DF: £6.40. CSF:

Jackpot: Not won; a pool of £4,960.01 is carried lorward to Lingfield today. Quadpot: £89.20. Placepot: £385.70. Place 6: £317.64.

Place 5: £208-60.

The meetings at Doncaster and Lingfield were both aban-

## Union happy at **Olympic** logistics

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Miami

All previous worries about the problems of running the Olympic regatta in Savannah about 250 miles from Atlanta, were dismissed yesterday by Paul Henderson, previously the highly apprehensive president of the International Yacht Racing Union.

Speaking at one of the major testing grounds, the Olympic Classes Regatta here, he said: "I think most of the sailors are looking forward to Savannah. There were a lot of things we

Of greater excitement to him was the prospect of persuading the 100-plus countries in his organisation to adopt a new high performance dinghy. "I believe the youth of the world needs some new dinghies," he said, acknowledging that Britain was setting the pace for the rest of

He wants to see some trials this autumn, ahead of the IYRU's annual general meet-ing in London, but conceded that he may not be able to carry enough delegates with him to vote the new machine into place in time for the Sydney Olympics in 2000. "Whether I can do that is questionable," he said. "But I am sure I can bring them round for 2004. I think I can win this mission to persuade. It has to be done."

He also wants any new boat made widely available. "I think there should be a policy to make the sailor important, not the equipment, so by definition it should not be high-priced," he

Britain went into the second day of the Miami regatta hav-ing seen the 470 duo of John Merricks and Ian Walker lying second to the Olympic gold medallist Jordi Calafat, of Spain, despite testing a new boat, mast and sails. Their women counterparts, Bethan Raggatt and Sue Carr, were also

progressing well.
The world youth champion, Ben Ainslie, at 18 the youngest to be picked to sail for Britain at the Games, came first and second in his first two Laser races. He was then penalised with a 720-degree turn at the start of the third race but fought his way back to finish 12th.

#### **Bonaly takes** charge as **Britons slip**

ice skating

Stephanie Main, the British skaler, yesterday failed to qualify for the women's final after finishing a disappointing 26th in the short programme at the European championships in Sofia.

Main needed to be in the top 24 to reach the closing stages. where the five-times champion Surya Bonaly will have the advantage after a close contest. Bonaly, of France, took a nar-row lead after two tie-breaks were needed to separate her and second-placed Irina Slutskaya, of Russia.

Tanja Szewczenko, of Germany, coming off a poor performance at her recent national championship, held third place with another Russian, Maria Butyrskaya, fourth. The winner of the short programme last year, however, the eventual runner-up, Olga Markova of Russia, could only manage 11th place after two serious errors in her routine.

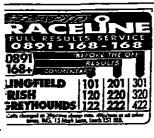
Steven Cousins, the British champion, was very disap-pointed by his failure to win a medal in Sofia. "It was so close, but close doesn't cut it," the 23year-old from Deeside said. Cousins, the seven-times

British champion, went into the free skating final on Thursday in third place but, on a night of erratic skating, he fell on his first attempted triple axel.

He later did a double loop instead of the planned triple and a double flip-double toe loop jump combination where he had intended two triples. "It would have been lovely

leaving with a medal round my neck," said Cousins, whose fourth place was still four positions higher than he achieved at last year's European and World championships. He fin-ished behind the Ukrainian, Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, and the Russians, Igor Pashkevich and Ilya Kulik, on a night when Zagorodniuk was the only skater to realise his potential.

A medal would have been the first for a British man in the Europeans since Robin Cousins no relation - won the event ahead of his Olympic title in



FA CUP FOURTH ROUND: Distinguished member of Wembley hall of fame meets old adversaries today. Guy Hodgson reports

# Porterfield back to haunt Leeds

Maybe when you have got 27 of the things, you can afford to be wanton with them. When Colin Todd was asked this week about FA Cup finals, he said he would gladly have sacrificed some of his England caps to have played in one. The Bolton Wanderers manager did

not presume to put a value on the winning goal at Wembley. Not that he would have to go far to get an estimate. The club president. Nat Lofthouse. scored twice in Bolton's 2-0 win over Manchester United in 1958, while Todd's newly apppointed coach, Ian Porterfield. got the most famous goal of his life against Leeds United in the final of 1973. FA Cup glory runs vigorously through the corridors of Burnden Park.

Porterfield, 50 next month. took on what most would assume is the nearest thing to mission impossible - helping keep Bolton in the Premiership - three weeks ago and, fate being what it is, almost the first thing he was confronted with was the FA Cup fourth-round draw against, of all teams, Leeds. Memories of 23 years ago came flooding back.

In 1973 he was part of a Sunderland team whose Cup run

normally stirred by events on a football field. Among the Second Division's relegation candidates at Christmas, they were transformed by the appointment of Bob Stokoe as manager, sweeping past the then might of

'I was one of the lucky ones who achieved something that many people dream of'

Manchester City and Arsenal on

the way to Wembley.

There, every logical argument suggested the Wearside dream would end. The opponents in the final were a Leeds team whose image was the antithesis of romance. They were hugely skilled but had a frowning hardness that had all but killed affection outside West Yorkshire.

For six years running they had finished in the top three in the First Division and were champions the following season. Every Leeds player at Wemb-



in the 1973 FA Cup final

ley was an international but that could not insure them against the whim of Cup fortune. Porterfield, whose right foot

was largely for standing on, used it to volley the winner while at the other end Jim Montgomery invited comparisons with Gordon Banks' breathtaking save against Pelé three years previously by keeping out a shot from Peter Lorimer. The country, inured to the charms of a brilliant Leeds side, rejoiced.

Alan Hoby, in the Sunday Express, wrote: "It was not so much the Cup final of the century as a shattering CRASH which could be heard throughout the world of football. Soccer has never known -or seen - anything like it. It was the Sunderland miracle... the Roker explosion that destroyed the overwhelming

favourites, in the biggest Wembley upset of them all."
Even at the time Porterfield kept a grip on his excitement, describing the goal thus: "I just turned and whacked it. I knew as soon as I connected that no keeper could stop it. Although, come to think of it, Jimmy Montgomery probably would have done. What a game he had."

Now the owner of what, for a fleeting moment, was the most famous right foot in football is reticent to talk about memories. 'I don't want to take attention away from Colin and the players at Bolton," he said, "It was a long, long time ago. I hit it right, I hit it sweet and it went in. These things happen in football.

"I was one of the lucky ones who achieved something many people dream of. It was nice for me, it was nice for the family but it was nice for a lot of others too. Particularly Bob Stokoe, who did such a terrific job with us, but most of all the people of Sunderland. It was no more special for me than for others.

Porterfield arrived at Bolton after a managerial journey that took him to Rotherham, Sheffield United, Aberdeen, Reading and Chelsea. The last appointment ended with his dismissal in 1993, which probably ranks as the worst point of his career, but one he confronts without rancour.

"You have your bad moments." he said with a low voice



accent. "Football's always been about ups and downs but I've always been a positive person. For every winner there has to be a loser. I roll my sleeves up and work hard to put things right."

Nowhere more so than at his next job after Stamford Bridge, in Zambia where he coached a national side which had lost 18 players in a plane crash to within a match of making the World Cup of 1994. A draw against Morocco in Casablanca would have earned them a place in the United States, but they lost.

Porterfield then coached a club side in Saudi Arabia but was available when Bolton dismissed Roy McFarland as joint manager early in the New Year. "I've known Colin since we played together at Sunderland," he said.

"I knew from coming here as a player and a manager that this Photograph: Colorsport that still carries a strong Scottish has always been a beautiful

place in terms of the welcome you receive. Right from Nat Lofthouse down. Whether you win, lose or draw you're well received. There's good continuity, everyone seems settled here.

there has been a 1-0 win over Wimbledon and a creditable -1 defeat at Newcastle. Burnden Park has been re-

beaten 3-0 in the third round of

the Cup and in the Premiership

'I knew from coming here as a player and a manager that this has always been a beautiful place in terms of the welcome you receive'

That's why I didn't have to think too hard about coming here."

Porterfield has a five-month contract that will be reviewed by club, manager and coach in the summer although results since his arrival have shown an im-

ceiving letters from Tyneside since then, saying that Bolton are among the best sides to visit St James' Park this season, although Bolton are fed up with getting plaudits and no wins. A truly dreadful performance that vields three points would prob-

"The morale has been very good," he said. "The lads were disappointed that the results weren't going for them but they're in good spirits. They're chirpy and up for the games. They certainly don't give the impression of a team going out expecting to get beaten. "We've got 14 League games to turn the corner and so far it

has been encouraging. We were unfortunate to lose at Newcastie but we came away with great credit. We were playing a side who most people believe will win the Premiership and we competed very well. That can only help the players' confidence. A win today would hardly

cause an outbreak of self-introspection, either. "In the last few years the Bolton public have come to expect good runs," Porterfield said. "They got to the

and reached the play-offs at Wembley, so the fans are used to big games. And this is a big game for us. Leeds are just 40

miles up the road from here." The outcome of today's match is possibly the hardest to predict in the fourth round. Anyone searching for an omen would be interested to know, however, that Stokoe arrived at Burnden Park this week and spent an afternoon talking to his former charge. "He is a lovely man." Porterfield said, "and he takes time to see how his players are getting on." Significant? Porterfield dismissed the notion with a sport. "What happened 20 years ago will have no bearing at all on Saturday."

It is nice for the people of Bolton to hope, though. They would probably give away a cou-ple of Colin Todd's caps for an-

## To blow it from here would be so tragic... so utterly typical

by between Queen's Park Rangers and Chelsea was one of those rare occasions when television abetted rather than hindered match-going fans. The extra 24 hours to sleep off New Year's Eve revelries meant that Blues supporters saw 1996 in with a spring in their stride. In previous years we have always seemed to have to drag ourselves out of bed at some un-

godly hour for an 11am kick-off. I found myself sitting next to a father and son who both supported Rangers. The boy was about eight and spent the halfhour before kick-off asking me questions about how Chelsea had been playing during the season, then dissecting my answers with his father to try and provide himself with the reas-surance that the Superhoops were going to win three points in the battle against relegation.

The first half was the worst performance I have witnessed by two Premiership teams this season - countless passes went woefully astray. Then Bradley Allen scored a gem in the 70th minute and celebrated wildly. Matthew Brazier's own goal deflated him somewhat but, as the boy kept telling me: "A point in a derby game has got to be considered a good result."

having been reading 90 for soared. I knew that as the ball

## FAN'S EYE VIEW

No 134 Chelsea JON LADD

what seemed like an aeon, Paul Furlong rose and slotted in the winner. I rose as one with the massed Chelsea ranks to salute the victory.

When I looked down I saw the boy, he was aghast and then held his face in his hands so that no one would see him crying. As the final whistle went I put an arm on his shoulder. I've been there enough times with Chelsea to know the emptiness that defeat brings. "It'll get better," I said, but I knew he didn't believe me.

The following Sunday found me nearly hoarse from screaming Chelsea to an unlikely victory against Newcastle in the FA Cup. It seemed highly improbable that the team of the moment would make the same mistake they had a month earlier when we had beaten them in the league, but despite squandering a hatful of chances and some increasingly nervous defending, we led 1-0 deep into injury-time. As the ball drifted With the scoreboard clock out for a goal kick, my heart

crossed high over the halfway line that the referee would

Dimitri Kharin's kick defied description, as did the fact that, rather than stay on his line and let the defence close Les Ferdinand down, he ran forward, opening his legs just wide enough for the ball to be

lineman's flag and then to the referee; perhaps he had blown the final whistle before the ball had gone in. Chelsea kicked off and shattered these fragile illusions. I put my head in my hands and for a minute I was eight again.

ends. A final twist was provided when the draw decreed that in the fourth round QPR would play Newcastle (or Chelsea). Three of us travelled up together to the replay. One of the party "had a feeling", sadly the last time he made that pro-

blow his whistle and we would be in the fourth round.

poked through them.

1 looked desperately for a

And so the story almost

nouncement we had lost 4-1 at

home to Manchester United.

at 2-1 down with two minutes to go when Raud Gullit hooked the ball past Pavel Sr-nicek, it was difficult to tell who was the most amazed, the Newcastle fans that we had had the temerity to do to them what they had done to us, or ourselves that they had let us.

No more goals meant the game would be decided by cnalties. Last year we had lost to Millwall through the dreaded spot kicks. Smicek was playing a blinder and we were strangers in a strange land. On the whole, things had looked

Peter Beardsley missed, then Kevin Hitchcock saved Steve Watson's shot and after four penalties we were 2-0 up. To blow it from here would be so tragic. To blow it from here would be typical Chelsea.

When Eddie Newton's shot went in everything stopped for a second. He stood smiling at us and we grinned back. Then Wise dashed forward from the halfway line and pandemonium ensued.

On leaving the stadium the Newcastle fans wished us well for the rest of the competition and we told them they'd win the championship. I recognised the tears in their eyes... but this time they were different to the tears in mine.

## Clubs succeed in reversing Uefa ban

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, was a relieved man after Tottenham and Wimbledon had their European ban overturned - and he then set his sights on restoring England's lost Uefa Cup place.

Parry and Graham Kelly, his Football Association counter-part, had flown to Geneva yesterday to support the two London clubs in their appeal against the ban - ruling them out of European competition the first time they qualified in the next five years - imposed for their halfhearted participation in last summer's Intertoto Cup.

That appeal, accompanied by a wealth of documentary evidence, was successful, with fines of £90,000 for Spurs and £60,000 for Wimbledon levied instead. The fines, which with the costs add up to around £180,000, will be shared equally between the 20 Premiership clubs.
Parry indicated that the next

step would be to try to regain the Uefa Cup place taken away from England because of the attitude of Spurs, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday to the much-derided competition.

"There isn't an obvious route of appeal because this was a decisión made by Uefa's executive committee but we're going to ask them gracefully if they will reconsider," he said. "I don't see this as a kind of victory," Alan Sugar, the Tottenham owner, said. "All we have done is get back

to the position that 90 other clubs in England have naturally every year, the right to earn a place in Europe.

For Tottenham, the value of a successful run in Europe next season could be in excess of £4m, dwarfing their share of the fine, but Sugar stressed that his club had still paid the price for doing the decent thing.

"The reason we entered was to protect British football from the punitive measures of banning all our clubs from Europe that could have devastated the game in this country," he said. "I feel it's a bit like us being accused of robbing a bank when we hadn't, being found guilty, but then being told not to worry because the

police would pay the fine."
For Wimbledon, there was a degree of disappointment that they had not been cleared totally and Ned Hammam, brother of the club owner, Sam, had another metaphor. "It's like putting out a fire that we didn't start," he said. Asked if English clubs would

take part in the tournament in future, Kelly replied: "You never say never. You don't know what the situation will be in the future." Parry added: "We've already

decided that we won't take part this summer because of the European Championship. We have learned our lesson now, though. If we're going to take part, we will do so properly - we won't get it wrong again."

Bolton v Loads Bottom v Leeds.

Fauchogn reums or Bottom after suspersion but tellow defender laggart
(antice) is unaveilable. Station De Freitas is added to the squard Leeds are
concerned over the lithiess of defenders Dorige (digit), Jobson framstung) and Permismon down muscle).
Chepmen. Ford: and Beessley are
suspended, while haboan, Washings
and Fautabe are de international stuly.
Manager Wildinson must choose between Heeniery and Little in goal.
Chepmen Fermer and Little in goal.

Chariton y Breatford Chargon y special country to available again for Charlian after suspension but may struggle to displace Brown. Brentford are forced into one change as mid-fielder Caoham, on foan from West Ham, is ineligible. Martin, Anderson and Omige compete for his place. Evertos y Port Vale

Electron manager Royle names an un-changed, starting line-up, but has Hinchellie replacing Unsworth on the substitutes bench. Vale's reteam de-fancer Hill is struggling to shalke off a thigh liquiry. Midfielder Tellion is ex-pected to recover from a dead leg. Huddersfield v Peterboro Winger Rowe is likely to make the Huddersfield starting line-up at Collins' expense. Defender Clark is in line to return for Petarborough attender a line injury. Sedgemore is expected to keep his place.

Middlesbro'y Wimble Boro's player-manager Robson has been ruled out by a calf injury and luninto (mee) is doubtful. The Dons have in-form midfielder: Easte suspended but there could be a surprise Cup appearance from Jones. Striker Ekoku (back) is doubtful.

Notice Forest v Oxford Utd.
Notice Forest v Oxford Utd.
Forest look centarro be without captain Pearce (call). His fixely replacement is Phillips. Oxford will be without captain Ford and wingle Angel without captain Ford and wingle Angel who have harstring lightness. Marsh deputties for Ford, July menager Smith has still to decide witho will partner Mooth.

Reading v Manchester Utd Reading have goetheeping problems. Mithaltov (thigh) faces a late fitness

**TEAM NEWS** test while Hammond (chicken-pox) is recovering. Widowczyk (calf-and. Achilles tendon) is ruled out. Jones and Gâlkes are likely to be called up, with Bernal switching to the centre of defence. Reserve goalkeeper Coton and McClair have been added to United's squad. Pallister (back) missing the first 11th pare.

es his 11th game. Sirewsbury v Liverpool Shrewsbury's manager Davies is awaiting late fitness checks on central defender Walton (ankle ligaments) and striker Spink (hamsbing).

Liverpool manager Evans keeps the team that beat Leeds 5-0. Southaumton v Crews

New signing Watters is in line for his saints Cup debut, Striker Watson may be recalled to permer Watters and Shipperley in attack. Fivers will provide the apparing spearhead for Creek who will be without captain and central defender Macauley (groun).

Goalkeeper Welker, carbain Mathaliand Clase Wilson are declared and Totter ham. Central defender Ember (shoulder) is set to be recalled a Wolves and likely to replace these

lefa launch

Wolves and likely to replace 1888.
West Ham v Grimshy.
Gorton has been included 1888.
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## Edwards freed to tackle Bramley and continue his Cup run

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan will have their captain, Shaun Edwards, available to maintain his record of playing in every Challenge Cup tie

since their astonishing run of 42 victories began in 1988. Edwards' appeal against a one match ban for a high tack-le on Bradford's Robbie Paul

succeeded yesterday, leaving ever tie, they forced a 10-10 draw that is well within their compass him free to face Bramley tomorrow in the fourth round. "Obviously I'm glad," said Edwards, "If I hit someone I expect to be suspended, but in this case I was innocent."

Bramley, four from the foot of the Second Division at the end of the season last week, can hark back to a famous Cup performance against Wigan in 1984, Ironically in Edwards' first-

at the now abandoned McLaren Field, and Wigan, coached by one Alex Murphy, would not even have taken the tie to a replay - and eventually reached Wembley for the first time in 14 years - had it not been for a try from Graeme West, the club's current coach. Bramley will not be as tricky a hurdle this time. Last season's beaten finalists.

Leeds, also seem to have a task

with an away tie at Swinton. They have James Lowes at scrum-half and Garry Schofield back in his specialist position of stand-off for the match at Gigg Lane, but Harvey Howard is still

under suspension.

Just up the road at Rochdale, the Hornets could find Thatto Heath, one of the two amateur clubs to reach this stage, a hand-ful if the St Helens-based side

play as well as they did in beat-ing Chorley in the last round. The new regimes at St Helens and Warrington get an early and demanding test. Saints' new coach, Shaun McRae, is first in the firing line, when his new side

take on Castleford today.

McRae is without Joey Hayes, with a harmstring strain, but has Anthony Sullivan back on the wing and other recent absentees of the stature of Paul Newlove

and Bobbie Goulding fit again. "They are a very talented bunch of players." McRae said after his first three days in charge. "I'm not trying to build Rome in a day but just offering a bit of guidance when it's needed."

Castleford covered their pitch before the onset of the severe weather and are confident of being able to stage the match. They will, however, be without their England stand-off, Tony Smith, whose appeal against a one-match ban was rejected yesterday. Graham Steadman and Gareth Stephens have been named as the half-backs. with Frano Botica feeling that he

is not yet ready for the first team. Warrington's new coach, John Dorahy - no doubt with some advice from the club's other new appointment. Alex Murphy - has made some significant changes for the visit to Oldham,

Forster on the wings and Mike Ford restricted to a place on the

The Carlisle second row forward Stuart Rhodes has been banned for five matches. Rhodes, who has also been fined £50, was placed on report by referec Nick Oddy during his side's 36-6 defeat of amateurs West Bowling in the third round of the

# **Old Firm** pair arrive in Lilliput

If dreams of players can take them into the realms of fantasy football before big games, the players and managers of Keith and Whitehill Welfare may have been struggling to keep the night-

mare demons at bay this week, The two small non-League clubs have been propelled into football's fast lane as they prepare to take on the might of Rangers and Celtic in the third round of the Tennent's Scottish Cup. They await their fate with excitement and dread.

seat

Home advantage has been wrenched from them by officialdom, which deemed their grounds unworthy of such oc-casions, and so Pittodrie and Easter Road have been hired.

Keith meet Rangers today, while Whitehill face Celtic tomorrow: the two smallest clubs in the competition facing the biggest. Not surprisingly, the bookmakers have installed Kei-

th as 20,000-1 to lift the trophy. Jim Hamilton, the Keith manager, was looking on the bright side this week: "We'd have real nightmares if we looked too closely at the Rangers side and, to be honest, I haven't thought much about them at all yet.

"I'll wait until after lunch on Saturday before talking to the players, although I'm happy Paul Gascoigne is suspended. I would say we are as good as any team in the Third Division and several in the second. If everything was even we wouldn't stand a chance, but this is cup football and you have to hope for the best."

Like any manager in his nosition. Hamilton has under his charge an assortment of partvers who will wis to do their best and be able to at a higher level, while I have walk out of the ground at the end with heads held high.

Their town will be deserted on the day, with 7,500 tickets sold in a place with a population of 5,000. This is the closest Scottish football gets to the small town giant-killing of the FA Cup yet, such is the gulf between top and bottom, genuine cup shocks are isolated events.

"I've never played in front of more than 4,000 and many of the lads are the same," said Scott Taylor, the Keith playmaker, "I hope we don't get stage fright

David McKinney on the most distant of outsiders in this weekend's Scottish Cup third round

we keep the score down to six! "I've been daydreaming that in years to come I'll be able to say I scored against Andy Goram and Rangers." Whitehall Welfare are head-

ing for a sell-out against a resurgent Celtic, and they too can report record ticket sales. For a side which performs to 50 or 60 spectators on an average Saturday, 2,500 tickets sold on the first day of the public sale gives an indication of the level of interest in the area.

On such a momentous day even the manager, Dave Smith, is in danger of being wrapped up in the magic of the cup. He is toying with the idea of getting in on the act, of dusting down the boots and making a farewell bow to the game at the age of 38.

"It would be tempting, but 1 know I'll be nervous enough just looking over to their dug-out and knowing I'm pitting my wits against Tommy Burns. Celtic have players who have star status draped over them, so we'll be realistic about what we can do, in the knowledge that we Il have to withstand a lot of pressure.

The days of Berwick Rangers upsetting the mighty Rangers are in the past; Celtic are a professional side with professional players.

"I have players who are de-rmined to show they can play ambitions myself to move on in management, and this is the platform we have been waiting for. In addition, the revenue from this one game will keep the club going well into the next century.

Smith can count on around £50,000 for this game but he is likely to be left counting the cash as a consolation at full time. His goalkeeper, Scott Cantley, is in no doubt as to his

in double figures. I'm not sayon the day and so far everyone ing I'll be happy to let in seven I've met has either asked for a or eight goals but 10 or more ticket or told me to make sure would be a disaster. I'll do my



Eight-bail: Nicky Hammond, the Reading reserve goalkeeper, trains yesterday after recovering from chicken pox in the hope of replacing the injured Bulgarian international, Borislav Mikhailov, in today's FA Cup tie against Manchester United at Elm Park

Photograph: Peter Jay

best to keep the score down because I don't want to be remembered as the man who let

in 10 or 15 goals against Celtic." That kind of humiliation is the ultimate fear of any small club when jousting with the giants, and the players of both sides can learn a lesson from Alex Smith, the manager of Clyde, who took both Aberdeen and St Mirren to cup success.

In his days as manager of Stirling Albion, he watched his players go through the build-up to a big cup tie, only to find the occasion fell flat.

"The media had hyped up the game for the whole week and I was hoping for a good 90 mintask on the day. utes at the end of it, for the play-"My worst nightmare is to let ers to remember, but our big day lasted just 20 minutes by which time we were two goals down and the tie was lost.

Badminton

Bradbury scored an unexpected win yes-terday to reach the final of the mixed dou-

bles competition at the South Kores Open in Seoul. Archer and Bradbury, see ed seventh, beat the second seeds, Ki

Dong Moon and Gil Young Ah of the host

nation, 15-13, 15-9. They are set to meet in the final the South Koreans Park loo

Bong and Ra Kyung Min, who prevent-ed an all-British final by beating the soth seeds, Nick Porting and Joanne Wright, 15-3, 15-5 in the other semi-final.

SOUTH KOREAN OPEN (Secot) Men's ele-gles firmt: Krn Hek Nyun (S Kor) bt Lee Nuorig Jin (S Kor) 15-5 15-5. Doubles semi-limpts:

In IS Not 15-5 15-5 Doubles sent-Timels: R Subagiga and R Marrolly (Indon) to Churt and S Archer (GB) 15-5 13-15 13-7; Chesh Soon Ki and Yap Kim Hook (Malay) to R Razak and Chew Croon Eng (Malay) 15-11 15-8. Women's stagles sent-finate: Bore Soo Hyun (S Kor) to Zhang Ning (China) 12-10 12-10: Yao Yan (China) bi Kim Ji Hyun IS Korl 11-7 11-5. Doubles finat: GB Young Ah and Jang Hye Ock (S Kor) to Kim S Hyun S Hyun Gand Kim Mee Hyang (S Kor) 1-15 15-11 15-4. Mixed doubles semi-dimaits S Archer and J Bradbury (GB) bit Kim Dong Moon and Gil Young Ah (S Kor) 15-13 15-9; Park Joo Bory and Ra Kyung Min IS Kor) to N Porting and J Waight (GB) 15-3 15-5.

## **Hibernian confident of Cup progress**

off on the Cup trail today weather permitting - and they could still be on the road to Hampden.

The national stadium in Glasgow will be a building site come the date of the final on Saturday 18 May. The Scottish Football Association, however, seems unlikely to move the traditional end-of-season showpiece away from Hampden,

despite a cut in capacity. Only an Old Firm meeting of Celtic and Rangers, and all the pressure for tickets that would create, might force a rethink. "At this stage it is still the intention of the International Committee and the Executive bernian take on Kilmarnock in

at Hampden if possible," Jim Farry, the SFA chief executive, said. The ground's old south stand is to be demolished within weeks, leaving the capacity in a three-sided stadium at 34,000.

The Executive Committee, who decide venues for cup finals and semi-finals, will look at ties on a game-to-game basis," Farry added. "Decisions will be based on safety and the suitability for use of Hampden as work progresses. Clubs have carried on using grounds during redevelopment, so why not at the national stadium?"

The undersoil heating at Easter Road should ensure Hi-

hill meet Celtic on the same Edinburgh turf tomorrow. Hibernian have not won the Cup for 94 years since beating

Celtic 1-0 in 1902. Alex Miller's side took Celtic to a replay in the semi-finals last season but failed at the final hurdle. They have won only once in the last eight games, but Miller

said: "This is not a make-orbreak game. The Cup is a oneoff and, if we play our best football, we can go through." Steven Tweed is injured while Darren Dods and Pat McGinlay are suspended, but Gordon Hunter and David Farrell could return. Kilmarnock could be unin 1996 so far. The Tynecastle transforma

tion effected by Jim Jefferies has left Hearts in buoyant mood for their campaign, and last week's 3-0 win over Rangers should swell the attendance against Partick across Edinburgh. "It's a different game from Rangers but, if we score early, I'd expect us to win comfortably." Jefferies

Only six games today are expected to beat the weather: Keith v Rangers (at Pittodrie). Ross County v Forfar, Hibernian v Kilmarnock, Hearts v Partick, Hamilton v St Johnstone (at Firhill) and Caledonchanged for the fifth game in a ian Thistle v East Fife.

# Cup nearly a formight ago.

**Broncos** 

## in the hunt for **Mather**

London Broncos are back in the hunt for the England centre Barrie-Jon Mather, who failed in the High Court on Thursday to gain his release from Wigan in order to play in Australia. Broncos' football manager

Robbie Moore said: "We were waiting for clarification of the legal position and now that the player has to return to this country we will be making further inquiries. We are always interested in acquiring top-class

The London side have been tracking the 6ft 7in Mather since he was placed on the transfer list by Wigan for £150,000 last November after a contract dispute. The Central Park club maintain that he is under contract to them until 1997.

Lawyers acting for the 22year-old, who was a member of England's World Cup squad in October, had been trying to free him from his registration with Wigan so that he could join the Australian club Perth Western Reds in March.

Broncos, without a coach since parting company with Gary Grienke on Tuesday, will be without the services of the England winger Ikram Butt for their Challenge Cup visit to Dewsbury tomorrow.

The former Leeds and

Featherstone player had a groin operation this week and will be out of action for about six weeks. He hopes to return for the start of the Super League season.

A Scottish consortium are attempting to wrest control of Super League club Workington Town. Bob Jamieson and his business partner Angus Cook had been involved in an attempt to launch rugby league in the borders at Galashiels during the summer. Jamieson is working for three mouths as Town's a property developer and former director of Dundee FC, have pledged to put money in the club if they get control.

However, the Workington directors are also talking to two business groups from Cumbria and hope to reach a decision early next month. "We need short-term inward investment and we are looking for a figure to do for us what Jack Walker did for Blackburn and Sir John Hall for Newcastle," Kevan Gorge, the club chairman, said.

The club have transfer-listed the prop Garry Schubert at £10,000 after he was unable to agree a new contract for the Super League.

## **Uefa launches attack on EU**

Uefa has launched its strongest attack yet on the European Union s attempt to sweep aside football's transfer and nationality regulations.

National federations continue to debate whether to accept the so-called Bosman ruling, or stand behind Europe's football officials. But the Uefa general secretary. Gerhard Aigner, accused the EU of intransigence and a lack of sensitivity and knowledge of the subject.

He warned that the EU court's insistence that the transfer system and nationality restrictions should be scrapped could destroy the structures of the game in the long term.

"Is it really necessary to take such aggressive action?" Aigner

He said it was "legitimate for the sport and are likely to de-

of the European Commission some time before the Bosman case showed their fundamentally negative attitude towards foot ball's authorities," Aigner added.

Ireland's David Higgins shot a second-round 72 yesterday to lie joint second, three shots behind, after being leap-frogged by Wayne Westner in a rain-disrupted day at the South African Masters in Port Edward.

South Africa's Westner took full advantage of favourable morning conditions at the San Lameer Country Club to add 68 to his opening 69 for a total of 137. But, with two and a half viours of play suspended during the afternoon because of lightning and rain, half the field were unable to finish their rounds be-

Westner did not enjoy a prof-

asked in the latest issue of the Uefa Flash newsletter. "Football didn't introduce requirements in contravention of EU law."

football's bodies to defend themselves against measures which they are convinced will have a generally negative influence on the development of stroy the structures of national football in the long term.

"The very aggressive com-ments made by representatives

MBA: Washington 120 Houston 85; Detrot 93 Dallas 92: Vancouser 106 Toronto 101: LA Clippers 94 Deriver 93. **Westner overhauls Higgins** 

after driving into the right-

hand rough, and another at the

fourth. However, he then found

his form with seven birdies over the next nine holes around

the turn. "I'm happy with the

way I'm playing at the mo-ment," he said. "The course is

tricky but it's not too tough."

among those who did not fin-

ish are Zimbatwe's Mark Mc-

Nulty, a shot behind on six

under par with four holes to

play, and another South

African, Warren Schutte, also at

six under with six holes re-

Westner's closest threats

CIS INSURANCE WELSH MASTERS (Lianelli) Segui-Grade: J Price (Wal) bit A Thomson (Eng) 1-7 7-1 7-4; R Corsae (Sco) bit H Duff (Sco) 7-5 3-7 7-5. itable start. The twice South African Open champion dropped a shot at the first hole

Roxing

Basketbali

François Botha's second urine sample from his International Boxing Federation heavyweight championship victory over Axel Schulz has tested positive for steroids. A hearing will be held within two weeks by the IBF championship committee to decide whether the South African will be stripped of the title ne 9 December in Stuttmert.

Cricket The one-day match between Zimbab-we and Central Districts in Napier, New Zealand, yesterday was cancelled due to rain, Zimbabwe start their three-match Emitted-overs series against New Zealand in Auckland tomorrow.

Notinghamshire restarday announced a record profit of £258,714 for 1995. it follows the money-spinning double vis-

SPORTING DIGEST The British pair Simon Archer and Julie

it of the West Indies to Trent Bridge, help-ing the club exceed £2m in income from the game for the first time.

Football

Russell Osman, the former England de-fender, has signed a new contract keep-ing him with Brighton for another month. The 36-year-old ex-Bristol City boss has been on a month-to-month

contract since arriving at the Second Division club in September. Ourner Dieng, the Paris St-Germain de-fender, has been banned for two-months by the French Football Feder-ation for failing a drugs test. He is the fourth professional player to be given fourth professional player to be given a ban in France this season. The Spanish Soccer Federation agreed

yesterday to cut their First Division from 22 to 18 teams by 1998 on the rec-ommendation of Uefa. The First Division expanded unexpectedly last summer after the Spanish authorities demoted several teams to the Second Division for rules violations and then allowed them to return, joining two clubs who had been promoted. Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, will ask his board to approve the plan to drop to 20 teams next season and then to 18. Angel Marie Villar, president of the Spanish federation, said: "Uefa are not

Soanish federation, said: "Lefa are not in favour of this long transition to reach 18 teams, but they understand the special situation our country is in."

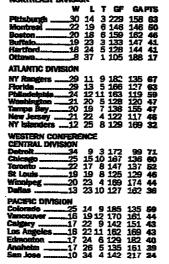
LAST NIGHT'S FOCURE POSTPONEMENTS: Endishigh insurance League: Third Division: Donoster v Mansfield frozen pitch), Press and Journal Highland League: Deveronsale v Clachnacudin (snow).

WORLD CUP GROUP SEVEN QUALIFYING SCHEDURE: Sun 2 Jenne 1998: San Marrio v Wales. Sat 31 Aug. Wales v San Marrio; Beigium v Turkey. Sat Oct 5: Wales v Netherlands. Wed 9 Oct San Marrio v Beigium v Turkey v San Marrio. Sat Dec 14: Beigium v Netherlands, Wales v Turkey (possible). Sat 29 Mar 1997: Wales v Turkey (possible). Sat 29 Mar 1997: Wales v Beigium, Netherlands. Wed 30 Apr. San Marrio v Netherlands. Turkey v Beigium. Sat 7 Junes Beigium v San Marrio. Wed 2 April: Turkey v Netherlands. Turkey v Beigium. Sat 7 Junes Beigium v San Marrio. V Netherlands. Turkey v Beigium. Sat 7 Junes Beigium v San Marrio. V Turkey. Turk 11 Nov. Netherlands v Turkey; Beigium v Wales.

134 S Jones 67 67; J Leonard 67 67, 135 D Pooley 68 67; S Verptenk 69 66, 136 8 Lane (GBI 63 68, 137 A Magee 63 69; D Martin 68 69; R Mediate 70 67; T Schemer 67 70; M Standly 71 66; B Way 66 71, 138 M Bradley 69 69; C Perus 69 69; D Duraf 68 70; L Jerzen 69 69; K Perus 79 69; D Pohl 65 72; T Purzer 70 68; S Simpson 67 71; J Wilson 67 71, 140 S Lyle (GB) 68 72, 141, G Watte (NZ) 70 71, 144 F Allem (SA) 72 72, 148 S Elichgon (Aus) 75 73, SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS (San Lameer Country Club, Port Edward) Leading sec-ned-round scores (SA usiless stated): 137 W Westner 69 68, 140 D Higgins (Irl) 68 72, I Pelmer 70 70, C Williams 71 69, 142 A Medrick (GB) 17 71, F Qurn Inr (IS) 73 69; S van der Merwe 72 70; G Red 72

73 69; S van der Merwe 72 70; G Red 72 70, 143 J McHerry (Rep Inf 67 76; M Christle IUS) 67 76; C Dawson (6B) 70 73; C Ksrnys 71 72; L James (6B) 71 72; A Lovelace (6B) 72 71 144 A McLean 71 73; R Sallor (Aut) 68 76; A Sothritho (Por) 72 72; J Mashego 72 72; D Fichardt 71 73; M Archer (6B) 74

Ice Inockey
NHL: Hartlord 8 Los Angeles 2; Boston 4 Tampa Bay 3; Montreal 6 Flonda 2; New Jersey
3 Washington 1; Devot 4 Ottawa 2; Chloago 2 San Jose 1; Colorado 2 Vancouver 2 (o/ti. EASTERN CONFERENCE NORTHEAST DIVISION



ice skating EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Sofia **Rugby Union** Kenya is to host an international sev-

ens tournament which organisers hope may become the biggest such event in the world. The Safari Sevens will take place in Nairobl on 27-28 July.

Skiing

Several leading women Alpine siders said yesterday they were angry about a tight schedule planned for a World Cup downhill at Sestriere, Italy, today, and some suggested they might boycott the race. Heavy overnight snow prevented an of-ficial training session on the new piste yesterday and race officials said they would hold a training run today before the race starts at 11.30em. These officials are playing games with us," the Swiss Heidi Zurbriggen, who is 10th in the overall standings, said. "The piste at the moment is too fast and dangerous. We need much more training time then they are offering,"

Britam's Chris Wilkinson beat Poland's Wajtek Kowalski 7-5, 6-4 and will play either David Rikl, the Czech Republic No 2 seed, or Chris Woodruff, of the

Snow reports

Mayrhofe Seefeld... St Anton

BLILGARIA

FRANCE

ITALY

SWITZERLAND

United States & Canada

90% 100% 85% 80% 100% 80% 24.1 26.1 26.1 cloudy cloudy cloudy STON 98% 100% 100% cloudy 25.1 26.1

(Can) bt J Settergan and P Thomadtsson (Swe) 6-1 6-4. Girlis' singles quarter-finalis: A El-wood (Aus) bt J Schonfeldova (Cz Rep) 6-3 6-2; M Lucis (Czoe) bt S Mearova (Cz Rep) 6-3 6-0; M Grzybosepia (Pol) bt S Drake Brodeman (Aus) 6-2 6-2; M Dechy (Fr) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-2 4-6 6-3. Debbies quarter-finalis: R Reid and C Wetson (Aus) bt A Rippner and M Carliste White (US) 6-4 6-3; O Barabanschikos (Bele) and M Lucis (Croe) bt N Dechy and A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-1 3-6 6-4; M Pesticova and J Schonfeldova (Cz Rep) and L Varmuzovo (Sam Mar) bt A Castera (Fr) and T Pfivelitsch (Ger) 6-1 6-3. Seniora doubles champfonshipt; R Case and G Masters (Aus) bt M Edmondson and K United States, In the senti-finals of the ATP Challenger event in Heilbronn, Ger-

The lucrative men's Grand Stam Cup, usually held each December, is to be played earlier in 1997 because of the clash with the Davis Cup final and the ATP Tour World Championship. The Grand AIP four World Championship. The Grand Siam committee said yesterday it was not ideal for the ATP championship, the Davis Cup final and the Grand Siam Cup to be played consecutively at the end of a long season. The 1996 event will be held as scheduled in Munich from 3-8 December but a new date for next year would be set following further dis-cussions with the ATP tour.

CUSSIONS with the AIP tour.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Metbourne) Bleen's singles semi-finalis: M CHANG (US) bt ANDRE AGASSI (US) 6-16-47-6; B BECKER (Ger) bt M Woodflorte (Aus) 8-48-2-6-0. Women's desibles seemi-finalis: C RUBIN (US) and A SANCHEZ VICAPO (So) bt N ARENDT (US) and A SANCHEZ VICAPO (So) bt N ARENDT (US) and A BOLLEGRAF (Neth) 6-4-2-6-5-2. Missed Docubles seemi-finalis: L Jensen and N ArendtUS) bt J-1 De Jager(SA) and J Heitherngton (Can) 6-2-6-4. Boys' singles quarter-finalis: B Rehrowst (Swe) bt P Snchaphan (The) 6-2-6-3; S Gaon (Aus) bt J Vanck (CR Roy) 4-6
7-5-6-1; D Blener (Ger) bt J Settergren (Swe) 7-5-7-5. Doubless seemi-finalis: M Lee and J Inotman (GB) bt M Heilstrom and B Rehrowst (Swe) 7-5-8-2; D Brocca6 (it) and J Robochaud

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See Page 22



BECKER THE BATTLER Australian Open tennis

# Gay Meadow prepares to welcome Liverpool

**PHIL SHAW** 

The lower orders had their day in the third round of the FA Cup, with Ipswich, Sheffield United and Chariton humbling the self-styled aristocrats of Blackburn, Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday. The fourth round tends to be a different matter: when the going

gets tough, the toffs get going. The Toffees of Everton proved a case in point last year. rising from the depths of the Premiership to win at Wembley. No Evertonian would shed tears for Liverpool were they to succumb at Shrewsbury to-

the Second Division side's manager. In a neat bit of reverse psychology, Davies has had a sign placed above the players' tunnel - similar to the one that has struck fear into visitors to Anfield down the decades - which declares: "This is Gay Meadow".

Shrewsbury, whose squad in-cludes four Scousers, have lost only four of their last 27 games. They also possess a striker with inside knowledge of Liverpool's three-man defence. Steve Anthrobus was a colleague of Phil Babb and Neil Ruddock at Millwall before joining John Scales at Wimbledon. Having scored seven goals in seven years. Anthrobus is ripe for his 15 minutes of fame.

the three eligible to turn out against Manchester United is fit. The Bulgarian, Borislav Mikhailov, faces a late test on a thigh strain, Simon Sheppard has a broken arm and Nicky

Hammond chicken-pox. The latter has volunteered to come out of quarantine and play, proof that Cup fever can still overcome lesser infections.

If Elm Park's keeper crisis is designed to lull United into over-confidence, the sight of a hideously bumpy playing surface should disabuse them of any

such notions. Referring to the

20 tonnes of sand spread over

it to assist with drainage, the Reading defender Andy Bernal

keepers this season, yet none of irony: "Our pitch could be a great levelier

Port Vale's chances of causing an upset at Everton might have been greater had Joe Royle's team not aiready suffered a scare against Stockport, although the Potteries club can point to some encouraging auguries.

When they last faced the holders, in 1954. Vale beat Blackpool, including Stanley Matthews, en route to the semifinal. The current side, despite being 19th in the First Division, have won eight and drawn two of the last 12 games. In the kind of duel which en-

capsulates the competition's charm, Vale are likely to deploy

Reading have used six goal- remarked, with no intentional the 6st 4in Gareth Griffiths, a £1,000 buy from Rhyl, against Duncan Ferguson, who cost f4m from Rangers. Ferguson plays on pending the verdict from a judicial review in Edin-

> the Scottish FA. The Cup quicksand has so far claimed four Premiership victims, a total that must at least double before this round is over. Nevertheless, ties between clubs from different levels remain the essence of the competition's appeal. In-form Aston Villa, who have not lifted the trophy in 39 years, are an-

> other team with an unenviable

task, travelling tomorrow to

burgh into whether he must

serve the remaining seven

games of a 12-match ban from

Sheffield United, bottom of the First but conquerors of Ar-

The ex-files could be a particularly strong factor at Bramali Lane, with United's manager Howard Kendall looking to one of Villa's great stalwarts, Gordon Cowans, to bridge the

chasm in quality.

Nor can Tottenham.

Southampton or West Ham feel entirely confident today. Spurs' visitors, Wolves, are warming to Mark McGhee's radically different playing style, and will be hoping that Ian Walker does not recover from illness in time to face Steve Bull and co. In that event. Chris Day, 20, would make his debut

Southampton are on a hiding to nothing against Crewe, who stand second in the Second Division and have several young talents who will not look out of place in the company of Matthew Le Tissier, One, Neil Lennon, is likely to move up to the top level, possibly with Queen's Park

Rangers, as and when Crewe go out of the Cup. West Ham receive Grimsby. sadly no longer accompanied by the shoal of inflatable haddock in the stands. But the Mariners do have a big fish in a small pond in the shape of Ivano Bonetti, late of Juventus, who will be anxious to uphold the honour of South Humberside and Italy on the grand stage.

On Monday



20-page Sports section



CHAMPION IN EXILE

Colm Jackson. anta, tels Mike Bon



UP FOR THE CUP

qualifying campaign away to San Marino on Sunday 2 June. Spurs' reprieve, page 26

# Asprilla leaves without signing Football **GUY HODGSON**

Newcastle United's £6.7m purchase of Faustino Asprilla was in doubt last night when the Colombian striker flew back to Italy without putting his signature to a contract estimated to be worth £15,000 a week.

Asprilla, 26, whose Italian season has been disrupted with a knee injury, had been in Newcastle to complete the formalities of a move from Parma that would have taken the Premiership leaders' spending to £40m since Kevin Keegan became manager in 1992. These included a medical which, perhaps significantly, was not mencompleted when the club issued

Delivered by the chief executive Freddie Fletcher, it read: Faustino Asptilla is now returning to Italy and we will be making an application for the appropriate work permit. The player was here to have his medical and to finalise other details, all of which has been

The lack of the usual after- highly and other people believe

in keeping with the cloak-and-dagger atmosphere in which this whole episode has been undertaken. Asprilla flew in to Teesside Airport on Thursday to avoid those expecting him at Newcastle and he slipped away from St James' Park without facing journalists or

supporters.

I want to do my best for Kevin Keegan," he said in a statement. "Newcastle are a great club who can give me a chance to play in the European Champions' Cup. That is why I am so excited to be joining

Refering to the allegations about his past that have surfaced in some newspapers, he successfully added: "I don't care about what is in the past, the slate is

Newcastle's chairman. Sir John Hall, also played down Asprilla's history which includes a shooting incident, an alleged argument with a bus driver resulting in a leg injury and several car crashes.

"I think at times we expect an awful lot of young people," he said. "Kevin rates him very



Despite the show of togetherness with Newcastle's Terry McDermott, Faustino Asprilla yesterday returned to Italy

he is one of the top three players in the world."

Another Newcastle target, David Batty, was yesterday thinking over his options, while insisting that he is not on strike and had not gone absent from

ACROSS

training. The unsettled Black-burn midfielder had a £3.5m move to Newcastle blocked by the Rovers owner, Jack Walker. In contrast, Steve Stone has settled his differences with Nottingham Forest and agreed an

improved three-and-a-half year Ronnie Whelan, has emerged

Phil Neal has been appointed the manager of Cardiff City 11 months after leaving Coventry. Neal's for- speak to the Football Associmer Liverpool team-mate, ation of Ireland. Whelan will

antipathy will be laid to rest

when Bath and Wigan play

each other in a two-match

series in May - the first in the

North under rugby league rules

and the second in the South,

possibly at Twickenham itself,

under union rules.

as a front runner for the vacant Republic of Ireland manager's job after being given permission by Southend United to

first have to oversee the sale of full-back Chris Powell to Derby for £750,000. Wales begin their World Cup

## **Bath and Wigan contest**

No. 2894. Saturday 27 January Hope to nab rotten thief? Dragnet may catch one (5,4) Notice Italy joining Euro-pean Union? Farewell to another member! (5) Computer information? Elpful clue about processing unit, initially (5) What economies aim to could be inflation! (9) ies aim for A former world leader where ed? Lesson that's not soise is involved (10) noise is involved (10)

12 Have a discussion if removing river from map (4)

14 Wind player has most of string instrument in clenched hand (7)

15 One of Churchilf's names for an overcoat (7) Framework made from mos mai means (9) 13 Very old thap - that's me. of woody plant is ailing, pushed over (7) Alcohol - most of that's in single, knocked back (7)
20 Hoist with front displaced

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Phi

has to move slowly (4) In infra-red, one line is multi-coloured (10) Madly rage and mock rela-tive (5-4) City with two cathedrals lacking a mere organ (5) Delicious last bit of saveloy Friday's solution Last Saturday's solution gets to stomach, taking no time (5) sweetener (9) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thoraday receive hardbacked copies of the excellent Laronsse Dictionary of Literary Characters worth £25. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday, Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4818, The independent, I Canada Squarer, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: C W Thomas, Bristol; P H N Whiteside, London E11, Miss Emms Sturder, Walton-on-Thomas; Gerald Cowham, Hudderslield: Stewart and Jane Junes, Northumberland.

DOWN Squeal when I get tor-tured (5)

Love shown by holy man taken in by dirty cheat (9)
Sixteen inadequate? Live to encompass 50, capable of more (10) North-West Passage trans-port possibly motivating i.e. Cabot (3-4) Wretched fellow's behead-

working (7) Girl? One gets almost fresh (4) One hard man coming up from Dublin? (5) Presumably sharp or flat, but not produced by nor-

so healthy, on reflection (10)

14 Suitably prepared and excited (9)

15 Study tennis-player - one hoarding energy? (9)

18 Composer is leading one in support (7)

19 Quote to finish up vividly

clear (7)
21 The best hunny car carries one upward (5) 23 Sudden attack of ill-health

Yes (4)

restricts one in Italian city Remain a good person?

champions take on league's perennial British champions. Now that the matches - probably on 8 and 25 May - have been confirmed, television can begin the serious bidding. Goodison Park and Maine Road, homes of Everton and Manchester City respectively, were yesterday touted as possible Northern venues.

Steve Bale on the historic games which will bring together league and union

the clash of the codes

enquired about using Cardiff

Arms Park. "Of course it's a great com-Such are the consequences of rugby union's new professionmerical venture," John Quin, the Bath secretary, said last night. "But over and above that, here is the chance for the leading exalism and the removal of the austral and the removal of the taint that union has sought to attach to league since the great split of 1895. The practical benefits of playing these matches maybe obscure beyond one code being able to claim a spurious ponents of both codes to pit their wits against each other. At this stage I would have thought it was a one-off, or a two-off if you like, to celebrate the comingsuperiority over the other, but serious money will be involved together of the two codes." Though agreement to stage

when union's five-times English the matches was confirmed by the clubs yesterday, the Rugby Football Union has yet to give formal blessing through its gameregulation committee. But Richard Mawditt, the Bath chairman, has told other club officers he has the verhal approval of Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary. Wigan received the Rughy Failing Twickenham, Bath have Football League's support a

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while ago and already have won a Twickenham date: the Middlesex Sevens on 11 May. The prospective date of the

second match would necessitate postponement of Wigan's Super League fixture against Sheffield Eagles the following day. In fact the League has been luke warm about the venture and when Bath approached the RFU with a view to using Twickenham they were initially told it would be unavailable due to reseeding.

But the prospect of taking the game to Wales appears to have wrought a change of mind.
"When they heard that the
Arms Park was being considered," Quin said wryly, "it seems they decided to reallocate their reseeding programme."
Ladbrokes, the bookmakers,

reckon the chances of either side being beaten at their own game are remote. Wigan are I-10 (if you bet £10 you stand to win only £1) to win under league rules, with Bath at 6-1. Bath are the 4-11 favourites to take the union contest, with

in tomorrows INDEPENDEN On Sunda



DIARY OF DESPAIR "As I walked up the caged

tunnel to a volley of abuse from the crowd in front of the dressing room, I kniew that was it for the series. I was so devastated I felt i wanted to go back out, put the stumps up and take guard again.

Mark Ramprakash & distillusioned tourist.

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